



Transcending Time

CARVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

35/2: Summer, 2014

Two Wars on the Frontier Diaries of a Soldier

Now available

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**Membership Update &
Donations**

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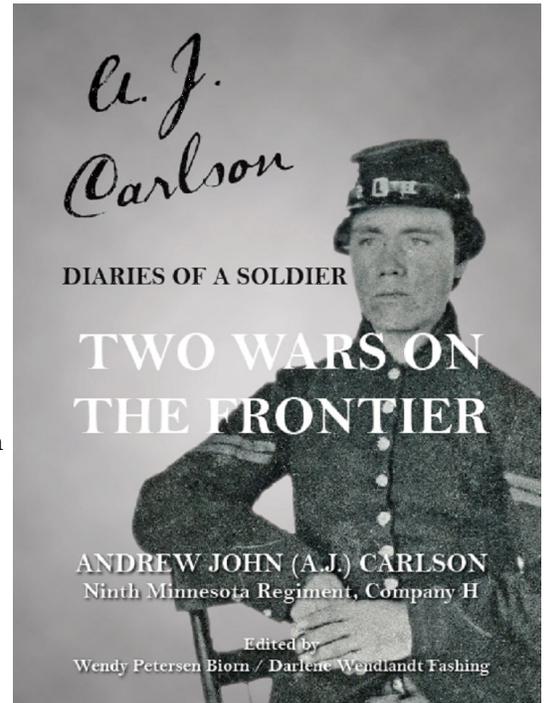
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“Walt Whitman aptly described the American Civil War (1861-1865) as ‘The war of Attempted Secession’ in his narrative. A. J. Carlson clearly shows in first hand fashion the significance of the word ‘Attempted’ and what is might have meant if secession had succeeded. Carlson was a member of the Ninth Regiment of Minnesota Infantry, which lost a great number of its men as prisoners – some of whom wound up at the infamous Andersonville Prison. Carlson was determined not to be a prisoner. As Carlson and comrades fled from the Union disaster at Brice’s crossroads in a suspenseful cat-and-mouse chase worthy of a Hollywood movie, Carlson encounters a number of Black Americans – one a soldier, one a housewife, and another an elderly man. As the elderly man helps Carlson’s men cross a stream, Carlson takes the man’s hand, which in Southern culture was a faux pas. Carlson contrasts his own action with the practice of slaveholders fathering children with enslaved black women to produce lighter skinned slaves that would command a higher price at auction. Had the attempted secession succeeded, more of the same would lay ahead for Black Americans. Carlson’s urgent and lively narrative showing his role in keeping secession only attempted is a worthy reminder of how much was at stake during the Civil War.”

—David Grabitske, Minnesota Historical Society

A.J Carlson was an immigrant from Sweden, who settled in East Union. He enlisted with the Ninth Minnesota, Company H. This Company was comprised of Carver County men. Carlson’s diaries are full of local accounts, names, places and events everyone will recognize. For each book sold, \$5 will be used to purchase e-books, to be donated to educational organizations or programs. If you would like to purchase a copy or are an educational organization please contact the CCHS for more details.



SNIPPETS

Challenges

Wendy Petersen Biorn

Challenges are something we all have to endure. Most are not fun, but the end results are usually worth the trouble. Much has been said about the challenges we have been faced with, regarding the Andrew Peterson farm and Ward Holasek's donation of part of it to the CCHS. Under the direction of a wonderful board, donated time from a PR firm, and attorneys, we have navigated through a series of negative attacks on the CCHS. It would have been easy to come back with as much negativity as we were attacked, but we opted to take a positive approach. As we are asked questions, they are answered with facts.

All donors want to know two things. Will the CCHS accept a gift and will we be able and willing to follow their instructions for use of the gift. We believe we owe our donors and members respect and to treat them as we would want to be treated. These are the questions, comments and concerns we have used to direct our responses. I do feel we owe you our members answers to the most common questions. It is these questions I will attempt to answer in this column.

"How can a government agency like yours, just take a property from a family?" This comment originates from a FOX 9 broadcast where an announcer makes a comment which indicates that the CCHS is a "government" agency and just stole the land from the "family." The reporter had lead the listener to that conclusion in her report. To be clear, we are not "government". We are a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization. The CCHS received this legal determination in 1940. We are dedicated to "Collecting, Preserving, and Interpreting the history of Carver County". We are also not "taking" the land from anyone. Ward Holasek left the land to the CCHS in his will and later signed a Warranty Deed to us while alive, to ensure that the CCHS would receive his land upon his death. We are doing as much as we can to follow Ward's last wishes.

"All the board member stood "over the top" of Ward and forced him to sign his will." Ward's attorney in Chanhassen would disagree with that comment, as would all the board members. I can assure you Ward had his own attorney for the signing of his will and no one but his attorney and himself were in the room when it was signed. Ward came to the CCHS shortly before his heart surgery and asked if we would accept the land, if he willed it to us. Ward wanted the property to be a gift to the community. The CCHS was just chosen as a vehicle to fulfill his wishes.

"But you were his personal representative. How does that work?" I was NOMINATED by Ward to be his personal representative. He and I agreed, on the condition that he lived 10-20 more years. As we know, he did not, so I voluntarily declined the nomination due to conflict of interest.

What now? Well, we wait for the legal system to sort things out. No one knows how long this will last, but rest assured I will do my best to keep you, our members, as current as possible with the facts. As a member, I invite you to call and ask any question you like.

Marilyn (Peterson) Braun joins the CCHS staff as our new Researcher.

A note from Marilyn:

As a wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, I am passionate about family heritage. My roots are with the East and West Union Lutheran churches. I am a genealogy enthusiast and historical preservation advocate.

I have been active with the *Nordic Music Festival* and am a member of the *Friends of the Historic Andrew Peterson Farmstead*, the *Nordic Heritage Club* and the *Vastergotland Society*, having served on the Boards of each. I was President & am currently the *Vastergotland Society* newsletter editor, volunteering at their *Svenskarnas Dag* booth each June at Minnehaha Park in Minneapolis.

I am a member of the CCHS and the American Swedish Institute. I have traveled to Sweden multiple times and have visited various other countries, as well.

My goal is to make the family histories and old photos that I have, accessible for research at the CCHS. I am anxious to meet you and helping you preserve your family history.



News from Around the County

Chanhassen Historical Society Chaska Historical Society

Wilkommen Heritage and Preservation Society of Norwood Young America

Watertown Area Historical Society

Watertown Area Historical Society Presents 2014 Rails to Trails Events

During Watertown's Rails to Trails summer festival, the Watertown Area Historical Society, in collaboration with the River City Theatre Company, will present "A Cabin on Swede Lake." The play tells the story of the Justus family, the first white settlers in Watertown Township. There will also be an exhibit, live music, children's activities, silent auction and free refreshments. The events will take place at the Community Center. Dates and times are:

July 18: Performances at 4:30, 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.
Exhibit Hours 1:00 to 7:00 p.m.

July 19: Performances at 1:00, 2:00 and 3:00 p.m.
Exhibit Hours 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Two new Displays and Donations Keep Norwood Young America Busy

Willkommen Heritage and Preservation Society is currently displaying a collection of wedding attire, invitations, and other memorabilia that represent more than 100 years of the Wolter Family of Norwood Young America. The saga of weddings begins in 1910 with J.Fred and Emma Wolter. On display are her dress and his suit. The next is Lothar & Linda, and included in that display are her dress, attendants dress and the brides shoes. This wedding is followed by Curtis and Deanna, which also has both bride and attendant dresses. Next, is Curtis and Deanna's daughter Julie's dress and her attendants dress from her wedding to Michael Dammann. Finally, is the bridal and attendant dress of Julie and Michael's daughter, Molly from the day she married Aaron Bredelle. Molly would be the great, great granddaughter of J. Fred & Emma Wolter. The array of colors and fabrics used is quite interesting.

In July, we are receiving an historic player piano. It was purchased from Powers Furniture which is currently Unkle Thirsty's right across the street from the Heritage Center. The family donating it has the complete history from that day to today. Everyone at the Heritage Center is excited to have this unique item donated, and being a part of helping find its way back home, to Main Street, Norwood Young America.

The decision regarding the display for this year's Stiftungsfest Heritage Tent Display has been made. **Through the years – Gas Stations and Taverns** is this year's title/theme. The committee is busy collecting information and pictures. If anyone has memorabilia or information on any of these types of businesses and would like to have your items displayed, please contact the Heritage Center. If you would like to do your own display and are hesitant about putting a display together, one of our volunteers will be available to assist.

Come visit us and experience a nostalgic journey down memory lane. The Wolter Wedding will be up through Stiftungsfest. The Heritage Center is located at 102 E Main St. NYA and is open Thru- Sat. 10:00 - 2:00. For Private tours call the Center at 952-467-4227

Wonder what to tell people when they ask about Chaska's history? How about telling them about the clay holes and brick industry? Or the sugar factory? Or the tremendous growth Chaska has experienced in the last fifty years? Show them pictures of the schools found throughout Chaska, and tell them about the technological firms that call Chaska home! Point out the steeples that grace the skyline downtown, and the mounds in City Square Park that remind us of the first people who called Chaska home. Tour Jonathan, noting the farmers' names that appear on many road signs. Learn a bit about the infrastructure of the city and the organization of the city's government.

*From Athletic Park to Zip Code,
ChaskaAlphabet
shows us both early and recent history.*

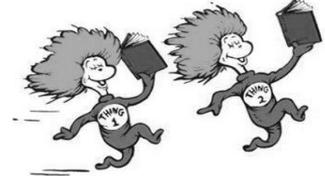
CHASKA ALPHABET
A Brief Introduction to Chaska's History

Hardcover available at the History Center beginning July 25th
for a donation of \$20

Now through
September 20
At CCHS
M-F 9 to 4:30
Saturday 10 to 3
Free!!
Fun for all ages!



The MORE
that you read,
the MORE things
you will know.
The MORE that you
Learn,
the MORE places you'll go.



Endowment Fund

Carol Ciavarelli

In Memoriam

Loren & Kari Schwinghammer
in memory of David Porath

New CCHS Members

Craig & Carol Borchard
Mitch & Melonie Eluebak
Karen Fadden
Richard & Marlene Fallquist
Gretchen Walby Fogo
Marlys Gaucher
Ken Johnson
Yvonne Sandell
Edward Schneider
Gordon J. Thom

Renewing CCHS Members

Mary Armstrong
Al Bongard & Carol Anderson
Jim Attard/Judy Darland
Carol Bacon
Mary Beckfield
R. James & Lynette Bledsaw
Timothy Budd
Carol Ciavarelli
Timothy J. Colliton
Ralph Ehrenberg
Dave Granlund
Chuck Hoese
Clarence & Mary Holm
Don Holtz
Shirley Jaeger
Barara Kujawa
Helene Leaf
Herb Lins & Joyce Bartels Lins
Ronald & Elsie Machtemes
Bonnie Matthews

Shirley Salzmeyer
Richard & Pauline Molnau
Kenneth Nystrom
Joyce Peterson
Ralph Peterson
Gaylene Poretti
Helen Radde
Loren & Kari Schwinghammer
Lois Schulstad
Virginia Springer
Phyllis Stender
John & Becky Varone
Carol Watson
Ted Wetzel
June Wichelman
Ellen Woodruff
Renee Wyatt