

# Heritage Happenings



Woodbury Heritage Society

Volume 27 No. 4 Winter 2010-11

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- **Page 5-All memberships expire at midnight on December 31st 2010.** Renew your membership, see page 5 for renewal form.
- Page 6-Annual Pot Luck Dinner, Sunday January 9th, 2011.  
Program:  
"An Ode to Stillwater: The John Runk Films." This film shows footage of the St. Croix Valley area from the 1950s.

*Narrated by Brent Peterson, Director of the Washington County Historical Society*

Click on the WHS website for the latest information.  
[www.woodburyheritage.org](http://www.woodburyheritage.org)

## A Picture is Worth a 1,000 Words...



It's just a little house, on a little plot of land, but it represents so much of Woodbury's past. It's been featured on commercially-sold refrigerator notepads, photo notecards, and watercolor prints, and now as one of the murals on the walls of Trader Joe's in Woodbury Lakes! Though the Woodbury Heritage Society's goal was to preserve some of Woodbury's farming history, it can't be denied that the house and garden have become one of Woodbury's most picturesque locations. Professional photographers often use the garden as a backdrop for portraits--a quick look at last year's Woodbury High School yearbook turned up four senior portraits in the garden. It's even been chosen as a wedding site. Likewise, over the years our outreach has expanded from our Open Houses hosted in the summertime to include annual field trips from Middleton and Red Rock elementary schoolchildren. The addition of the McCormick Deering Corn Sheller (shown below) was a big hit this year and, and as always, we are grateful for the donation and all the time and energy that our volunteers put in to make sure this valuable resource is available to our schools. (See back

page for an opportunity to help us further with the donation of a dry sink.) Our dreams of a Heritage Village continue. We have such exciting offers of donations that could expand significantly our ability to preserve Woodbury's farming past and make it available in meaningful and interesting ways to the future generations of Woodbury, so they too can

picture life in the pioneer days of Woodbury. The Miller Barn site that the City of Woodbury has offered continues to be explored. Woodbury has changed a lot, from a farming community where we grew our own food to a city with supermarkets galore. So too, our dreams for the Woodbury Heritage Society have grown beyond the little house on the little plot of land. We are eager for the opportunity to bring in the harvest of ideas. Like all harvests, timing is crucial. We'll need all the help, encouragement, and cooperation we can get, along with a lot of hard work (and a little luck) to move ahead in the near future.

*Contributed by Kathryn Ho*



## Heritage Society Hosts Washington County History Network

On November first the Washington County History Network organization met at the Old Country Buffet for its fall meeting. The organization consists of representatives from the various history groups in Washington County, including:

- South Washington County Heritage Society
- Woodbury Heritage Society
- Washington County Historical Society
- Gammel Garden Museum
- Historic Courthouse
- St. Croix River Association
- Oakdale-Lake Elmo Historical Society
- Cottage Grove History Preservation

WHS Board member Ken Wolterstorff (on the right) discusses with Brent Peterson the location of the Woodbury city hall on his old farm. Brent is the Executive Director of the Washington County Historical Society. Following the business meeting, and reports from member organizations, a program presented by the WHS. Ken Wolterstorff discussed the early



*Ken Wolterstorff and Brent Peterson, Director of the Washington County Historical Society, examining an early newspaper*

days of Woodbury. Ken was one of the 5 original founding fathers for the Woodbury volunteer fire department. He then served as a Lieutenant with Company C for the first Fire Department. For a short time, several of the fire trucks were stored on his farm until the first Fire Hall was built in Woodbury Heights. In addition, he was a constable for Woodbury Township and village. He was one of the last constables to serve in that capacity.

*Heritage Happenings* is distributed quarterly by the Woodbury Heritage Society  
President –John Seemann  
Vice President-Wayne Schilling  
Secretary-Patty Minehart  
Treasurer-Richard Pribnow

Special thanks to Kathryn Ho for proofreading the *Heritage Happenings*. It is with her help that this issue is minus many errors.

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## Interesting History from Wayne's World...

They used to use urine to tan animal skins, so families used to all pee in a pot & then once a day it was taken & sold to the tannery. If you had to do this to survive you were "Piss Poor." But worse than that were the really poor folk who couldn't even afford to buy a pot. They "didn't have a pot to piss in" & were the lowest of the low.

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. Here are some facts about the 1500s:



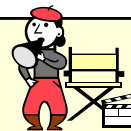
Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and they still smelled pretty good by June. However, since they were starting to smell, brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water!"

**And that's the truth, now, whoever said History was boring!!! W.O.S.**

*Editor's note: Wayne Schilling is solely responsible for the content and veracity of this article.*

*Look for more of Wayne's World in the next issue.*



**Upcoming events!  
Members and Guests  
Pot Luck  
Sunday, January 9th  
12:30 pm**

"An Ode to Stillwater:  
The John Runk Films."  
*Narrated by Brent Peterson, Director of the Washington County Historical Society*

**WHS Board Mtg.  
Dec. 2, 9:30 am  
City Hall**

Click on the WHS website for the latest information.

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



### Antique Appraisal ...

Approximately 25 savvy citizens made their way to Central Park on Sunday, October 3rd for the fourth annual Antique Appraisal Fair. Mike Kranz, from Midtown Antiques Mall of Stillwater, provided his expertise in determining the value of the plethora of objects, brought for appraisal.



*Mike Franz evaluating a collection old stereo pictures.*



*Karen Dolan, from Edina, tells the history of the candelabrum.*



Cover of Diane Thompson's new book "Memories of Stillwater's Lumberjack Days Celebrations,"

## WCHS Holiday Open House and Book Signing

Join us at the Warden's House Museum in Stillwater as the Washington County Historical Society hosts a holiday open house and book release event December 11th, and welcomes Washington County authors Tom Brewitz, Nancy Eha, Bob and Nancy Goodman, Brent Peterson, Scott Schell, and Diane Thompson.

This event will be the book release party for local author Diane Thompson and her book, "Memories of Stillwater Lumberjack Days Celebrations, 1934-1995." Thompson and her husband, Bob, brought back the annual celebration in 1968 - and it is still going strong. Come chat with her about the early days of the celebration and what it took to get Stillwater to celebrate its past.

The event will be held on Saturday, December 11th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. See the museum decorated for the holiday, listen to the sounds of the season and enjoy festive treats as you visit with local authors and shop for the history buffs on your list! Mary Taylor Allen and her string instrument students will be on hand to provide musical entertainment.

For individuals who cannot attend the Holiday Book Signing, the books are available at the Warden's House Museum, 602 North Main Street in Stillwater, or by mail. Please visit the WCHS online store for more information and a list of titles.





*Spangenberg farmstead house, Woodbury, ca. 1905.*



District 28 School, commonly called the Schilling School

### **School of the past— The Schilling School**

1860: Schoolhouse built.  
1867: New schoolhouse built.  
1952: Closed, consolidated with South Washington County Schools.  
\*Student enrollment: 1860: 12 students. 1868: 75 students. 1899: 45 students. 1938: 18 students.

#### **Teachers:**

1860-1: Nancy Lawson  
1898-9: Sarah Noltimier  
1903-4: Mary Allis DeCou  
1925-6: Mildred Pratt  
1926-7: Mildred Pratt  
1927-8: Mildred Pratt  
1928-9: Erma Bertram  
1929-30: Erma Bertram  
1930-1: Ruth Mallberg  
1931-2: Ruth Mallberg  
1932-3: Ruth Mallberg  
1938-9: Ruth Mallberg & Webster Morrison  
1939-40: Ruth Mallberg & Webster Morrison  
1945-6: Joy Seifert Schilling

1946-7: Stella Reed  
1947-8: Stella Reed  
1948-9: Stella Reed  
1949-50: Stella Reed  
1950-1: Stella Reed  
Other teachers: Elsie Kiecker & Stella Lietzall.

"I remember 'hot lunch' too. There was a kerosene stove in the cloak room which was an extension on the south east side of the school that also served as the entry way. About 11:00, the teacher started the stove and put on a large pan of water to heat. Whoever had food containers that needed to be warmed brought them to the teacher, and she placed them carefully in this pan and the food would be warmed by the noon lunch hour."

*Gladys Schilling Noeske*