

Rootprints is a publication  
of the St. Louis County  
Historical Society

VOLUME 58 • ISSUE 1  
SUMMER 2016

FOLLOWING THE PATHS of OUR PEOPLE AND PLACES

# ROOTPRINTS

## Albert Woolson Last Surviving Civil War Soldier

By Susan Schwanekamp  
*Rootprints Editor*

At his death in Duluth in 1956 at age 109, Albert Woolson was recognized as the last surviving veteran of the Union Army. Since then, he has come to be recognized as the last surviving veteran of the Civil War.

A larger than life-sized statue of Woolson has sat outside the Depot, directly outside the St. Louis Historical Society's administrative office. It is a replica of a statue in the Gettysburg National Military Park. Visitors are often seen sitting on Woolson's lap and being photographed with him.

This year, the Lake Superior Railroad Museum was able to arrange for display at the Depot of the Lincoln Funeral Car, a full-sized replica of the original Funeral Car, which was destroyed by a wildfire in Columbia Heights in 1911. Half of the suburb was also destroyed by this fire. (See also page 6 for more about the Funeral Car.)

Two other Society exhibits sprang out of this exhibit: the Albert Woolson flat-panel exhibit, created by Minnesota historian Barb Sommer and designed by local artist Gary Lundstrom, and an exhibit of selections from the Society's extensive collection of Civil War artifacts. (See page 5 for a more detailed article about the weaponry featured in this exhibit.)

Both are on display in the Lake Superior Railroad Museum near the Funeral Car.

The Albert Woolson exhibit will remain in place at the Depot for at least the rest of the year and then move to the Society's exhibit area near the baggage claim in the Duluth International Airport in 2017. Then it will move on to the St. Louis County courthouses in Virginia and Hibbing, for an extended stay, after which it will be made available to other borrowers, through the Society's traveling exhibit program.

Please contact us at 218-733-7586 or email [susan@thehistorypeople.org](mailto:susan@thehistorypeople.org) if you would like to reserve this exhibit.

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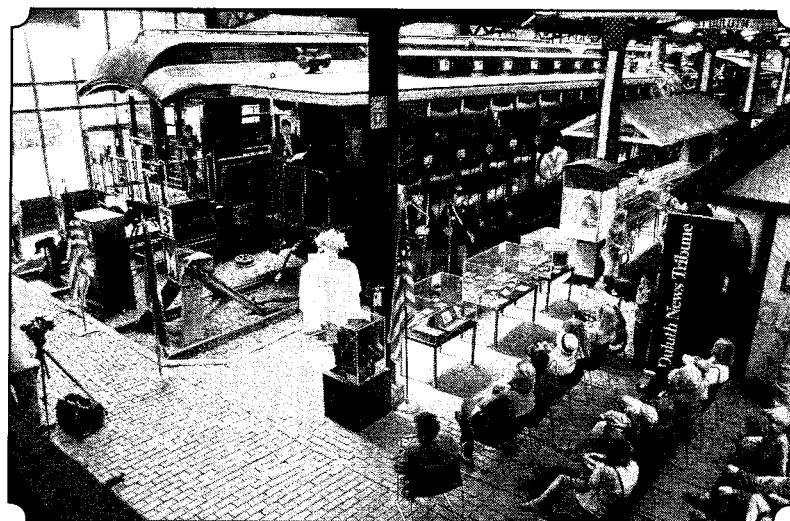
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*Visitors at opening reception for the Lincoln Funeral Car in the  
Lake Superior Railroad Museum and related Society exhibits*

