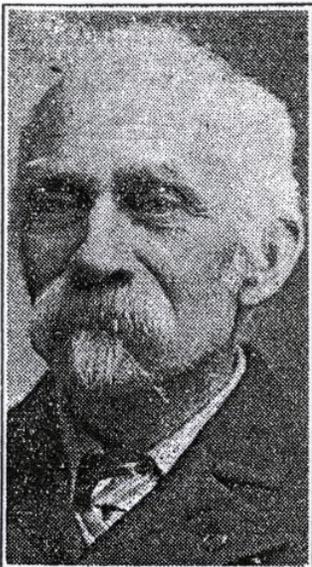


Prospect House & Civil War Museum Newsletter

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*Treat Wife Like
Sweetheart to Live
Long, Veteran Says*



FOUR bullet wounds, inflicted in the Civil war, didn't interfere with the longevity of Captain James A. Colehour, Battle Lake, Minn., who last week celebrated his ninetieth birthday anniversary. Colehour, this community's only surviving Civil war veteran, in his half century of residence here has been poundmaster, city clerk, alderman, justice of the peace, member of the school board, president of the light company, and mayor four terms. "Treat your wife like your sweetheart always and drink plenty of pure water," he decrees.

MINNEAPOLIS JOURNAL
February 1932

GREETINGS FROM JAY JOHNSON, FOUNDER AND CEO

On March 22nd the crocus flowers popped through the snow and bloomed. The first flowers to bloom in Battle Lake marked the start of yard work at the museum. We were picking sticks up all over the place, repairing rabbit damage on the hedge, cutting back the pink spirea and hydrangea, pruning trees and bushes, and, if possible, making some new improvements and additions.

Thanks to our excellent volunteers and master gardeners, the grounds look more spectacular every year! (I did enjoy doing some of it myself.) We also removed a couple of large "weed trees" that obstructed the view of the Prospect House and are gradually clearing away the brush by the highway. Big job, but it needs to be done. It looks better all the time.

Our next large yard project will be to provide steps from the sidewalk on the street to our walk to the museum...any volunteers?

Our yard is open to visitors through our "Walking Tour." We also plan to erect an open tent to have some things on display and provide the telling of Cap's Civil War story on request. We will, of course, abide by COVID-19 safety standards!

Stay safe, stay well, and please support this historic landmark and its collections.

NOTES

We are sorry to report that all events through July have been cancelled. Please visit prospecthousemuseum.org for latest updates on future events.

Please take our short survey to help us find ways to connect with you through virtual events. [<https://phm.wufoo.com/forms/online-event-survey/>]

ABBY BIZZETT-JOHNSON RETIRES

Excerpted from an article in the *Battle Lake Review* by Reba Gilliland.

It is with a heavy heart that we must announce that Abby Bizzett-Johnson is retiring after a decade with the museum. She carried out many functions, including fundraising, organizing and overseeing operations. Abby worked tirelessly, writing grants, and approaching businesses, service organizations, and corporate sponsors as potential donors. She worked with the board to get the museum listed on the National Register of Historic Places and to have a historical marker installed on Lake Avenue in Battle Lake. Her accomplishments are too numerous to mention but suffice it to say that the museum would not be where it is today without her devotion and hard work.

Abby is proud of what she has helped Jay achieve and says “I have had 10 years into PHM of love and labor, and I’m proud I could be part of that. Some call PHM my ‘baby.’ In many ways that is true.” But she is also looking forward to retirement where she can rest and do the things she’s been unable to do for a while – enjoy life, and like all of us, hopes she will have the years to do it.

Perhaps it is Jay who best sums up PHM’s last 10 years:

“I made the Prospect House into a museum; Abby made it work.”

GIVE CAMPAIGN

By Valerie Clark

To say that times are tough is probably the understatement of the year. We at the Prospect House recognize that this virus is hurting all of us in one way or another – from the small business owner who had to close up shop, to those individuals who are unable to visit their loved ones – this pandemic has certainly taken its toll. That is why we are so grateful to everyone who has donated to our museum during this difficult time.

These past few weeks, we’ve seen tremendous generosity from our community. Together, our friends have helped us raise over \$2,100 in relief funding for the museum. Also, thanks to contributions made to our two online giving campaigns, #GiveTuesdayNow and Give At Home MN, over \$1400 of proceeds are eligible for matching funds!

The museum relies heavily on ticket sales from our tours and events to cover basic operating costs. Since we are currently unable to offer either of these activities, our main source of income is gone. Although we will continue to seek government relief funding, you, our donors, are our best hope for aid at this time. That is why I want to thank you all who have already given! It is your support that will help all of us at the museum continue to work on new digital programming and a strategy to safely reopen. Watch a short thank you [video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQz8vd67Brg) from Jay. [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQz8vd67Brg>]



DID YOU KNOW?

There are many ways to [support us](#). You can donate, volunteer, recommend us to others, or bring your friends to tour the museum. The museum is a tax-exempt 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization (tax ID #273631846) and gifts are tax-deductible.

OUR WISH LIST

Do you happen to have any of the below items lying around that you are no longer using? Please consider donating them to the Prospect House.

- 4’ resin folding tables
- 4-drawer fireproof cabinet
- Printer ink cartridges
- Sprinkler system
- Display cases
- Snowblower and lawn mower
- Vacuum cleaner

Are you a craftsman? Do you enjoy working with wood or building models? Are you quarantined at home and need a project? We are looking for someone (or two) for the following projects:

- Outdoor bench based on one previously on the grounds.
- A birdhouse designed to look like the Prospect House.
- We have pictures in our archives of these items.
- Both objects can be memorialized with either your name or that of a loved one.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need:

- Docets in the school program (training available)
- Event staff (especially for the tea, fall luncheon and Gala)
- Collections Inventory Project volunteers to document and number museum artifacts. (training provided)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Thank you!