

Washington, D.C. in May. 4,000 visitors enjoyed a selection of 15 of the Virginia, Minnesota artist's portrayals of ordinary life in rural Slovenia.

## **Education through Programs and Special Events**

### **Lunch with the History People**

The "Lunch with the History People" continued to thrive in 2014, when it moved to the new Underground theater location developed by the Duluth Playhouse, located on the mezzanine level (second floor) of the Depot. The new venue allows for a larger audience, as well as a more spacious and comfortable experience for them. Archaeologist Stephen Mulholland presented a program on "Archaeology in St. Louis County: 30 Plus Years of Exploration and Adventure" in May. Heidi Bakk-Hansen presented on "The Notorious Madam Gain and the Red Light Ladies of St. Croix Avenue" (in Canal Park) in June. Local historian and author Tony Dierckins in July gave an entertaining program about the characters prominent in "Duluth's 1889 City Hall". Professor Arnold Alanen, gave a program on "Morgan Park: Duluth, U.S. Steel and the Forging of a Company Town" in August. Dr. Alanen's research interests include social characteristics of company towns in the Lake Superior region. Gina Temple-Rhodes presented on the "History of Women and Childbirth" in St. Louis County in September. The last program in October was done by Rhonda Fochs, a retired social studies teacher, on "Minnesota's Lost Towns", which was also the subject of her first book. She is now working on the second book in her "Lost Towns Series".

### **Curiosities from the Collection**

On the evening of June 27, 2014 the Society held a free public event in the Great Hall hosted by its board members Wes Berntson and Judge David Bouschor. 250 guests took advantage of the chance to explore, up close, many of the seldom seen artifacts from the Society's large and varied collection, as well as from the extensive personal collection of Society board member Wes Berntson.

Guests lingered over the many tables, which were filled with objects ranging from the fife played in the Civil War by its longest surviving Union soldier, Albert Woolson, whose statue is already familiar to Depot visitors (outside the building, outside the Society's administrative office space), to Victorian era clothing, to American Indian spear points and mortars from the "pre-history" period. Many historic photographs were also on display, and the Berntson collection was even available to handle. Many enthusiastic amateur historians were also on hand, providing more information and stories behind the artifacts.