Jensen was contracted to work on the restoration of our State Capitol Building. Jensen Conservation has been a national leader in the field of art conservation and restoration since 1981. All work is performed in accordance with the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice of the American Institute for Conservation.

*This credit line must be included: This project has been funded in part with funds provided by the State of Minnesota from the Arts and Cultural Fund through the Minnesota Historical Society.

On January 6, 1898, veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) requested a place on the Waseca County courthouse grounds for a memorial cannon. The cannon was manufactured in 1847 at the Tredegar Foundry in Richmond, Virginia and may have been captured by the First Minnesota Battery at Cheraw, South Carolina. The cannon was placed on a stone plinth at the southeast corner of the courthouse grounds. The cannon was almost melted down for the war effort in 1943. Wayne Stark of Baden, Pa., an expert on the Civil War’s big guns, said about 11,000 cannons were given away by the federal government between 1872 and 1916. About half were donated to local chapters of the Grand Army of the Republic, the politically powerful organization formed at the war’s end to aid and lobby for Union Civil War veterans, their widows and orphans. Other cannons were given to cities and towns, cemeteries and libraries. The original architect rendition of the court house showed a flagpole mounted on the clock tower and a ca. 1900 photograph shows a flag at this location. The flag may have been difficult to access, however, and the pole was removed in ca. 1940 and a pole was placed at the corner of State Street and 3rd Avenue NW. This pole was relocated behind the cannon in 1947. A local newspaper article dated August 20, 1947 explained, “When a flagpole painter examined the court house pole Saturday he refused to climb it because of its rusted condition at the base. Realizing the danger, the county board ordered the pole taken down at once and the work was done Saturday afternoon by Omar Dahle, using his dragline, in the operation. Once down, it was found that all but one bolt had worked out at the third joint, creating a hazard not before realized. The pole will be reset on the court house lawn, likely back of the cannon.”

The Waseca County War Memorial is succumbing to wear, corrosion and increasing structural defects. Both citizens and veterans groups alike have expressed their sadness at this state of disrepair. It is imperative that the monument be restored to its former glory so that veterans and citizens of Waseca County have a memorial that they can be proud of. Honoring soldiers who have served our country is scant compensation for all that’s been sacrificed in the name of freedom.

**Historic Value**

The historical value of the memorial and cannon is evident in the pride and honor that went into the initial planning and erecting of the monument demonstrated in the following historic.
news articles. These same ideals and values exist today.

The Waseca Herald – Thursday, May 15, 1941

PLAQUE WILL PAY HONOR TO WAR VETERANS

Bronze Tablet Gives Names Of Veterans Of Waseca County

"A lasting memorial to the men from Waseca County, who enlisted in the past three wars in which this country was engaged, was erected yesterday on the court house lawn in this city. It is a bronze plaque embedded in concrete which contains the names of 1,073 veterans and six war nurses. The list carries the names of 213 Civil War veterans, 85 Spanish War veterans, 775 World War veterans and six army nurses, a total of 1,073 names..."

...The erection of this plaque completes a project which has been under way for several years by the Waseca County Memorial Day association and the veterans' organization in the county. They contributed the funds for its purchase and the arrangements for purchase and erection of the plaque was carried out by a committee comprising H. S. Panzram, A. F. Bartelt, and D. M. Coughlin. The plaque was made by the Luxor Vase Co. of Minneapolis.

The Waseca Herald – May 12, 1943

Feels Court House Cannon Should Remain.

At a meeting of the Memorial Day Association last Monday evening, a motion was passed instructing the acting president to prepare an article for print in this week’s Waseca papers about the Lewis McKune Post Memorial Cannon on the court house grounds. It seems that every little while some individuals or organizations take it upon themselves to demand this cannon for salvage for the war effort. And while the idea is certainly laudable there might be reasons why it should stay where it is. In the first place it was put there thru the efforts of the civil war veterans as a memorial for the valor of those who fought in it. They are all gone and there is no one left to protect it except those who were born at a later date. It is the desire of most of the service men now living that it be kept where it is. The cannon itself was shipped in from the east. The frame on which it rests was made by Nate Thompson, who was then working for John Reibold. On one side of the frame are these words, “Presented to Waseca County by Soldiers of War of 1861.” On the other, “Dedicated May 30, 1898 to the United States Soldiers.” On the main part are painted these words, “Compliments of the Comrades of Lewis McKune Post. No. 27, G.A.R. Dept. of Minn.”

Would it not be better for all of us to collect other material of greater value for the next scrap drive. Let us keep our memorials for those who also fought to preserve our country. -- H.A. Panzram, Acting President.
Lewer Store Room
Vacant First Time

Waseca people have boasted for a long time past that there hasn’t been a vacant store building in this city. Not only that, but there is a constant demand for residences or apartments to rent. Just now, however, the main store room in the Lewer building on South State street is vacant for the first time since it was built, 25 years ago. For several years after the building was erected, this room was used for displaying auto cars by E. W. Lewer. It was then used as a post office until the federal building was completed. Since then it was occupied by the Borger Chevrolet Co., who took over the E. C. Prble garage, when Mr. Prble went into the implement business in his new building.

On To Nicollet Tour Scheduled

Special Train To Carry Fans To
Kansas City, Minneapolis
Game May 27

Arrangements were completed Thursday for the “On To Nicollet” special train to Minneapolis & St. Louis RY, when approximately 300 base ball fans will go to Nicollet park to see the Kansas City vs. Minneapolis baseball game at Tuesday evening, May 27th. Chairman Gordon Smith and E. L. Krouth of the Waseca Committee of the Legion-Commercial Club announced that the party will leave Waseca at 3 p.m., the only stop northward will be made at Waterville. The return trip will leave Minneapolis at 12:15 a.m.

The plan for this year’s trip is similar to the trip of last year. A one way ticket of $2 includes transportation on the special train, a ticket to the game in a reserved section, bus transportation to and from the Waseca headquarters at Nicollet hotel to Nicollet ball park. The Minneapolis “On To Nicollet” committee have arranged for an entertainment program at Hotel Nicollet.

PLAQUE WILL PAY HONOR TO WAR VETERANS

Veteran Fisherman
Gets His License

The old saying that “a man is only as old as he feels” was illustrated at the Waseca county auditor’s office last Monday. One of the oldest men to apply for a fishing license that morning was the veteran Woodville township farmer, Geo. Scholl, 91 years old. He is the last member of that band of sturdy German immigrants who built the southern part of Woodville township into some of the finest farm land in the state of Minnesota.

Dealers Discuss Food Stamp Plan

L. E. R
Resig City

The council Tuesday evening discussed the Wilsonville plan of using stamps as a tax. All the members were in favor of the plan except C. E. Nelson, who was absent. The council passed a resolution that the plan be referred to the tax assessor for his opinion.

Overall Days Buttons Selling