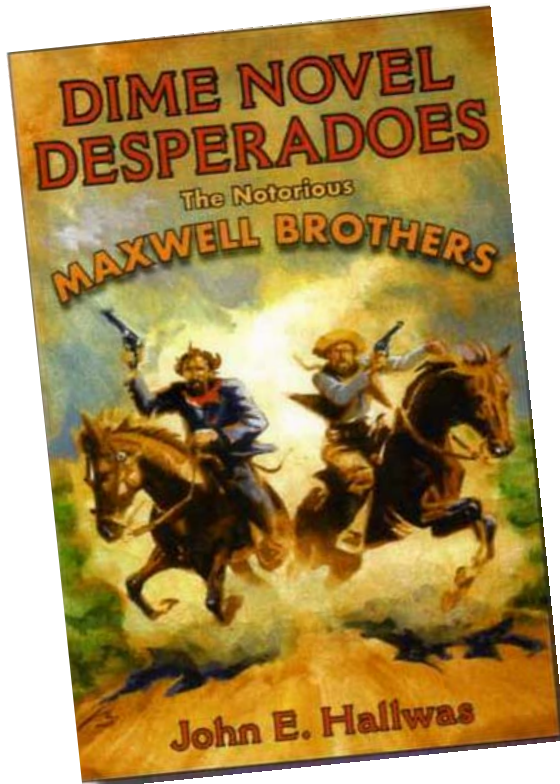


WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Who, What, When, Where

A free *Dime Novel Desperadoes* presentation by author John Hallwas is scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday, September 27, at the Bayport Public Library, 582 North 4th Street.

Notorious Maxwell Brothers Returning to Washington County in New Book

Author utilized Washington County Historical Society's collection for new nonfiction work

Washington County, Minn. -- Outlaw brothers Ed and Lon Maxwell from Illinois left a trail of chaos and crime across several states, including Minnesota's Washington County, in the late 19th century.

The notorious Maxwell Brothers were pursued by an estimated 20 posses through Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri and Nebraska. Despite a stunning story that involved murder, job violence, robbery, horse stealing, gunfights, and manhunts, the Maxwells were portrayed as heroes in sensationalistic dime novels that were popular at the time.

The Maxwell brother's story will be shared by John Hallwas, author of *Dime Novel Desperadoes*, at a free special event - sponsored by the Washington County Historical Society - at 2 p.m. Saturday, September 27th at the Bayport Public Library, 582 North 4th Street. Signed copies of the new book will be available for sale at the event. Proceeds benefit WCHS.

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Hallwas is *Distinguished Professor Emeritus* at Western Illinois University. The author or editor of two dozen books, Hallwas' latest work is winning rave reviews for the suspenseful story he weaves about the historical Maxwell characters. The riveting chronicle includes many illustrations and maps that bring the true story to life. Hallwas' findings extend the fabled "Wild West" to Washington County and eastward.

"Dime Novel Desperadoes is a new classic in the annals of American outlawry, and this compelling historic account includes Washington county," said WCHS Executive Director Brent Peterson. "The book is superbly researched and written, in fact Mr. Hallwas visited the Washington County Historical Society for information on the Maxwell brother's activities here," Peterson added.

Washington County Antics

The year was 1876. After brother Lon had been arrested in Illinois, Ed Maxwell drifted north to Washington County. One to always defy authority, Ed decided to practice shooting his .44-caliber Henry repeating rifle – on the shore of Lake St. Croix. His timing was impeccable as the Stillwater police chief Matt Shortall, out taking a stroll after supper, noticed the stranger's reckless activities. Shortall warned the stranger to stop the shooting, but was stunned when he saw the barrel of the Henry quickly turned on him. Shortall was dumbfounded, unable to "run" on Ed and disarm him. Ed let him go, but when the chief later returned to the shore with assistance, Ed was nowhere to be found. Others who had seen Ed thought he'd once worked at the Hersey, Bean & Brown [saw]mill in south Stillwater. After the riverbank encounter, Chief Shortall realized the stranger might be one of the outlaws being sought by authorities across the Midwest. Once an inquiry was telegraphed to Illinois authorities, help arrived in short order. The posse located Ed in Denmark Township where he had been romancing a local school marm. The authorities surrounded the house and captured Ed when his trusty Henry rifle was out of reach. Miss Stotesbury, the school teacher, was reportedly not at all pleased at the course their love had taken.

Founded in 1934, the Washington County Historical Society is a private, donor-supported, nonprofit organization with more than 700 individual, family, and business members. WCHS is supported by individual gifts, memberships, earned income, and foundation grants. For more information, please visit www.wchsmn.org