

**Programs Offered by Author/speaker Stephanie Grace Whitson
Ideal for libraries, quilt guilds, genealogical societies, etc.**

Women in the Civil War: From Homefront to Battlefield

Neither North nor South was prepared for the scope of need that would result from war. Women stepped up, caring for the wounded, collecting and making quilts and clothing, rolling miles of bandages, and working in munitions factories. Some disguised themselves and joined regiments. Others became Daughters of the Regiment (the inspiration for Stephanie's spring, 2015, novel). Their contributions deserve to be lauded, and this program does just that.

Stories in Stone

A virtual "cemetery walk" illuminating the poignant, the unexpected, and the sometimes humorous "stories in stone" found in pioneer cemeteries.

Steamboat!

This program shares the romance and danger of 19th century steamboating on the "Big Muddy," (the Missouri River), called a "steamboat graveyard" by those who plied its treacherous waters. Step back in time and meet the female pilot who inspired Stephanie's 2014 novel, *A Captain for Laura Rose*.

Victorian Mourning Customs

When Queen Victoria's beloved Prince Albert died in 1861, the queen entered into a period of deep mourning that would last for forty years. In America in 1861, the Civil War brought death to nearly every citizen's doorstep. This program revisits the Victorian "culture of mourning" and the unique rituals of remembrance practiced between 1861 and 1900.

A Writer's-Eye View of the West

How "what really happened" inspires Stephanie's historical fiction and how she incorporates real people, places, and things into her stories. A virtual tour revealing what a novelist sees when she visits historic sites and how "what really happened" inspires story.

Nebraska's Sod House Homemakers and Their Quilts

Based on Stephanie's research documenting quilts used in sod houses. Quilts, enhanced archival photographs, and the women's own words help us see inside their homes and better understand their lives and legacy. Includes a trunk show of reproduction quilts made for the book *Home on the Plains: Quilts and the Sod House Experience*.

Calico Trails

Antique quilts, blocks, and quilt tops from Stephanie's personal collection illustrate this tribute to our pioneer foremothers. Includes readings from pioneer women's diaries, reminiscences and unpublished archival papers. What really happened is better than fiction!

Learn more at www.stephaniewhitson.com or contact Stephanie at stephanie@stephaniewhitson.com