

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF GUST AKERLUND AND THE AKERLUND PHOTO STUDIO

- 1872 Born August 6, Hässjö Parish, Västernorrland, Sweden.
- 1892 Entered Swedish military service.
- 1893 Released from the Swedish military to immigrate to the United States.
- 1894 Settled in Merrill, Wisconsin; worked in local sawmill.
- 1895 Studied photography as an apprentice at the Jones Photography Studio in Merrill, Wisconsin.
- 1900 Granted American citizenship.
- 1902 Purchased Fred Hanson Photography Studio in Cokato.
- 1905 Bought a corner lot at Fourth Street and Broadway Ave.; moved Hanson building there and added the skylight.
- 1913 Sold studio to George Swedburg and entered automobile business briefly.
- 1914 Visited father and two brothers in Sweden; returned to Minnesota upon the outbreak of World War I; rented the J. J. Sundquist Studio in Dassel.
- 1918 Bought former studio in Cokato from George Swedburg.
- 1918 Original skylight damaged by hail, present skylight constructed Original backdrop covered and a new one painted by an itinerant artisan.
- 1927 Married Esther Hanson of Dassel in Iron Mountain, Michigan; one son, Theodore (Ted), three grandchildren.
- 1935 Added the adjoining apartment where the family lived.

- 1950s Esther ran a small gift shop out of front half of the studio.
- 1953 Akerlund practiced trade part-time almost until his death.
- 1954 Gust died January 21, Cokato, age 81; Esther lived in the apartment until 1983.
- 1976 Studio entered on the National Register of Historic Places.
- 1984 Studio donated by family of Gust Akerlund for restoration.
- 1985 Esther Akerlund died, August 24, Cokato Manor.
- 1986 Grand opening of the restored studio.
- 1992 Studio damaged by tornado, building shifted on foundation by over three inches.
- 1996 Studio profiled in Minneapolis *StarTribune*, March 17.
- 1997 Spring fashion shoot for *Mpls/St. Paul Magazine* taken in studio, photos appear in March issue.
- 1998 Over forty Cokato-area residents photographed for a special feature in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*.
- 2005 Video of studio interior used in the public television documentary, *North Star: Minnesota's Black Pioneers*.
- 2006 Marking twenty years since the opening of the restored studio.
- 2008 Foundation replaced on the front portion of the structure.