

Oliver H. Kelley Farm, Minnesota Historical Society

Dr. Tom Woods was site manager of the Oliver H. Kelley Farm, a historic site of the Minnesota Historical Society, during the 1980s. He and his staff developed the Kelley Farm living history interpretive program. It quickly became known as "...one of the most ambitious historical farming operations on the continent." Jay Anderson, *The Living History Sourcebook*, 1985.

Link to the Oliver H. Kelley Farm: <http://www.mnhs.org/places/sites/ohkf/index.html>



Tom Woods driving Star and Swan as they plow at the Oliver H. Kelley Farm when he was site manager there in the 1980s.

As a result of research into the history of Kelley and his founding of the Grange in 1867, Dr. Woods published *Knights of the Plow: Oliver H. Kelley and the Origins of the Grange in Republican Ideology*, Iowa State University Press, 1991 as part of the Henry A. Wallace Series on Agricultural History and Rural Studies.

Reviews of *Knights of the Plow*

"The genesis of *Knights of the Plow: Oliver H. Kelley and the Origins of the Grange* in republican Ideology was a public history project. . . . As Woods notes in his preface to the book, the more he learned about the Grange founder, the less satisfied he became with the existing interpretation of the ideological origins of the Grange. . . . In *Knights of the Plow*, Woods gives us a carefully researched and ably told story of the origins of the Grange and the formative life of its founder. Unique to this work is the author's analysis of the organization's intellectual roots in nineteenth-century liberal republicanism, an ideological position which sought to reconcile the traditional values of Jeffersonian republicanism with the new values of liberal capitalism. In this endeavor as well, Woods ably argues his case." Peter Cousins, *Public Historian*, Winter, 1993.

“Woods has written a highly imaginative and thought-provoking study of Oliver H. Kelley and the ideological origins of the Patrons of Husbandry, better known as the Grange. Originally an American studies dissertation written at the University of Minnesota, this book is a carefully crafted blend of biography, intellectual history, and institutional analysis.”

Raymond Arsenault, *American Historical Review*, December 1992

“Thomas A. Woods...has produced a significant contribution to a topic that for too long has been largely ignored by scholars. . . . Not only does it enlighten us concerning the ideas and goals of Oliver Hudson Kelley, the founder of the Grange, but the volume’s documentation and bibliography is an excellent guide to the literature on the topic that has appeared in the last quarter of a century.” Roy V. Scott, *The Journal of American History*, December 1991.

To order *Knights of the Plow*, go to <http://store.yahoo.com/isupress/0813802393.html>