

Waseca County Historical Society

History Notes

Volume 36 Issue 4 / Dec 2014



www.historical.waseca.mn.us / LOOK FORWARD TO OUR PAST



ON THE COVER: *In December 1952 the students of Alton Township District #62 posed for their Christmas program presentation with parents watching.*

INSIDE: Christmas Time in Waseca County 1955 | Timeline Exhibit Implementation begins | WCHS Annual Meeting | Herter's Holiday Open House, December 6 | WCHS in the Classroom & Outside | What's Happening in 2015 . . .

History Notes is a publication of the Waseca County Historical Society ©2014
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www.historical.waseca.mn.us

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research@historical.waseca.mn.us

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WCHS HOURS: Tuesdays-Fridays, 9-5
Closed Mondays



The Minnesota Historical and Cultural Grants Program has been made possible by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the vote of Minnesotans on November 4, 2008. Administered by the Minnesota Historical Society.

WCHS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

December 6 | “A Herter’s Holiday Open House” 11-5 p.m., FREE & Open to Public, Cookies & Hot Cider; WHS Choir performs at 1 p.m.

2015

January 14 | WCHS Board Meeting

February 11 | Annual Ice Harvest at Clear Lake; The public is invited to join area 5th/6th graders to learn about an era before refrigeration!

February 11 | WCHS Board Meeting

Always check our website for latest information:

www.historical.waseca.mn.us



Sheila Morris, WCHS Co-Executive Director thanks Bernie Gaytko, First National Bank president for grant matching funds for the Timeline project.



Made possible by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the vote of Minnesotans on November 4, 2008. Administered by the Minnesota Historical Society.

More Grants Approved

\$4,500—E.F. Johnson Foundation, and \$1,500—Legacy of Angels, Paul and Sue Rosenau, for Chautauqua 2015 at Trowbridge Park

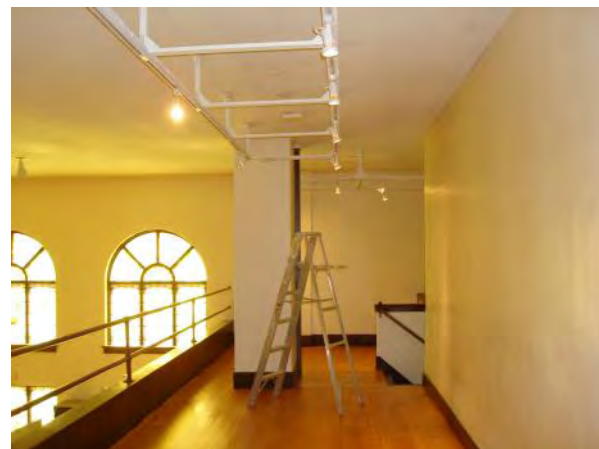
\$4,000—Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council for Spring Luncheon/Lecture Series, and Chautauqua 2015 at Trowbridge Park

Co-Directors Letter



As we proceed into 2015, the museum will be transformed. By late spring/early summer, the next phase of Herter’s history will go on display with “The Essential Herter’s”; and by Fall, the Timeline & Unique Stories exhibit will be installed on the balcony. Sometime during the year, members, visitors, and other stakeholders will have a chance to comment on the highlights of Waseca County’s 150+ years by viewing an initial version of the timeline panels. We are grateful to the Minnesota Historical & Cultural Heritage Grants program for several generous grants making this all possible. In addition, we are grateful for match grants received from the Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation, First National Bank Waseca, Priebe Financial/Principal Foundation, and Bill and Patti Hoversten. Previously, this project received funding from the E.F. Johnson Foundation, Monday Study Club, and the Waseca Depot Society.

History of the Timeline Project A Waseca County timeline had been initiated decades ago by earlier board members and volunteers. The vision and funding for this project was lacking, but the idea was never forgotten.



Sheila Morris embraced the timeline as a design project that she wanted to accomplish. Her vision varied from year to year as she started to collect and update that list of people, places, and events from the 1850s to the present. Annual priorities, usually relating to funding of WCHS operations, varied according to the prevailing funding climate. The overall vision for the project stalled. In 2007, two grants were approved, one for a cable mount system and another for individual reproductions of key artifact images. 2008 was financially significant to WCHS in that 1) the great Recession began; 2) the Minnesota Legacy Amendment was passed. It was the people of Minnesota who voted for the sales tax increase that provided funds for the purpose of clean water, parks, arts and heritage projects around the state. The historical heritage funds are applied for through a complex online portal application process administered by the Minnesota Historical Society. Approval is not guaranteed, but skilled and persevering local historical organizations all over Minnesota have a funding source that has made many valuable historical programs, exhibits, research, and protection of collections possible. The Legacy Amendment provided for this fund to exist for 25 years. The year 2033 will come along all too soon.

Our hope is that the Waseca County Timeline & Unique Stories exhibit will stay on display for years, evolving with additions and updates, interspersed with three-dimensional artifacts. The first 20 Unique Stories are just the first stories to be chosen. There will be one story in each of the new exhibit cases. Each case will present an artifact, images, and brief facts presenting the meaning and significance of that person, place or event. Expanded narrative and “the rest of the story” will be made available on our website and/or on iPad/tablet stations around the balcony. There are so many more stories. Each needs to be researched and developed. Some will need to be greatly expanded as a major main floor exhibition, as the Herter’s history has been this year!

The process of bringing this major resource for community learning, sharing and pride is on its way. We’ll be reporting on our progress. Watch for the “community comment” phase in late Spring 2015. If you are asked to participate, please consider doing so. If you have questions about the project, contact Sheila Morris, 507-835-7700.

And into 2015 The Board of Directors will be creating a new Strategic Plan that will provide new goals and ideas for how

WCHS will go forward, in particular with new programming needed to bring the timeline history to students, families and out into the community. Different community stakeholders will be interviewed.

As far as school programs and annual events, we’re back on schedule with Ice Harvest on February 11 at Clear Lake Park; the Spring Luncheons in March, April and May; then “The Essential

Herter’s” exhibit in June, the County Fair, and an opening of the Timeline Exhibit sometime in the Fall.

A brand new Chautauqua The Chautauqua history is grounded in Maplewood Park. Last year we canceled Chautauqua at Maplewood because of the Herter’s opening and fundraising events in August. This year we are moving Chautauqua to Trowbridge Park on July 5, because 1) the Trowbridge Park band shell is 100 years old, and it has been restored just in time for a new era of performances. And history tells us that Chautauqua did move to Trowbridge Park after the Maplewood Hotel burned down in 1899. WCHS is collaborating with the Waseca-LeSueur Library and the Waseca Arts Council to bring you a bigger and more visible Chautauqua 2015. WCHS received grant funding from the E. F. Johnson Foundation and the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council—to make this a FREE family event. Stand by for more details in the next newsletters. —*Happy Holidays from Sheila, Joan, Pauline, Vanessa, Linda, and the WCHS Board!*

Thanks to Volunteers:

To STS crew for assistance and heavy-lifting with basement shelving

To Dan Swenson for assistance with basement shelving, and for some restoration of the UofM Mace storage; for township board visits

To Steve Luther and George Hagge for installing new/used office furniture for Joan Mooney’s office.

To Andy Breck and Office Space Design, Mankato for office furniture discount

To John Teskey for painting the Bailey-Lewer Library back porch

To Steve Luther for repair of Bailey-Lewer Library porch floor

Waseca County Historical Society members and board members enjoy the Annual Meeting & Brunch at the Waseca Masonic Temple/Aughenbaugh House on October 12. It was wonderful to be entertaining WCHS friends and family at one of Waseca’s most beautiful residences. At the Business Meeting, **Dave Zika** was elected to the board; **Marilee Reck, David Pope and Audra Nissen-Boyer** were re-elected to second terms.





The tall, grand Christmas tree in the parlor of the E.A. Everett residence on East Elm; notice the tree is decorated with strings of popcorn; the gifts left by Santa are Victorian dolls, a ring toss game, and a push sleigh, c. 1903



Above, the cozy living room of Dora Kiewatt Quade, a Waseca County rural teacher, decorated for Christmas, c. 1940s; notice soldier's photograph at lower right.



The Stafford children presenting a Christmas wreath c. 1930; L-R: Jack, Philip and Joy

Happy Holidays!

A postcard photograph of the Wolf & Habein at Christmastime; this was the grocery department of the well-respected department store in Waseca at the turn of the 20th century; identified L-R: William R. Wolf, Wallace Coon, Oscar Anderson, Stub Anderson and Charlie Johnson, c. 1908



A re-enacted Nativity scene at a Waseca church, unidentified, c. 1910, from a collection of negatives from the Johnson Hardware family.



Nancy and Candace Chaffin, the daughters of Bob and Lois Chaffin, posed in 1961 with Santa Claus cut-out



The 9 a.m. coffee group gathered at Christmas time with "Uncle Joe" Powell; L-R: (back) Pastor Paul Knutson, Bob Kieselbach, Harold Born, Henry Lewer, G. Powell, Mr. Lee, Bob Powell; (front) Bob McCarthy, David Piche, Joe Powell, unidentified, and George Gallagher, c. 1975



Patsy Sullivan, daughter of Ruth and "Sully" Sullivan, posed with her Raggedy Andy doll in 1949.



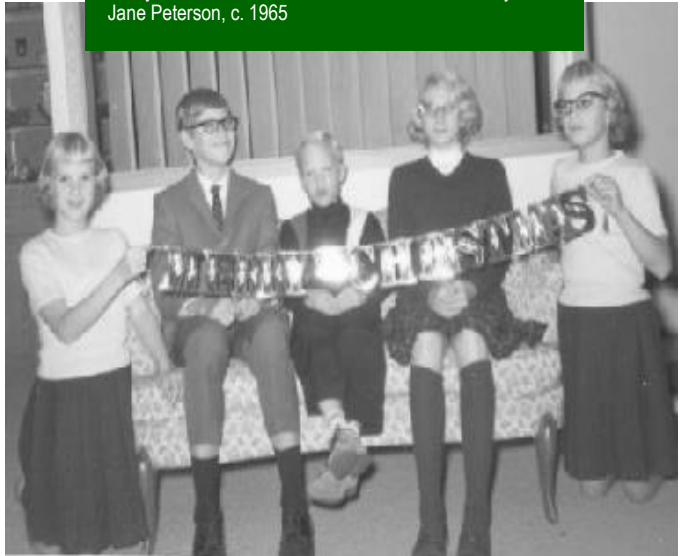
A view of South State Street looking north from 2nd Avenue S.E., taken by Bert Erickson who came to Waseca to work for the E.F. Johnson Co. in 1978. Remember holiday street decorations that stretched across the street?



Two little girls, unidentified, with a mountain of gifts beneath the Christmas tree at a holiday event, c. 1955



The children of Donna and Ken Peterson pose for the family Christmas card; L-R: Jan, Mark, Steve, Becky and Jane Peterson, c. 1965



Christmas Time in Waseca County 1955

New Richland Star, December 15, 1955

Urge Use of Christmas Seals On All Mail

December 15, was Christmas seal "Do-It-Day." As a reminder in the midst of the busy holiday season, the special day had been set by the Minnesota Tuberculosis and Health Association, which urged everyone who has not yet paid for his Christmas seals to observe "Do-It-Day" by mailing his check or money order at once... Another "Do-It" suggestion from TB workers is to use the Christmas Seals on every gift package and every card as a good health message reminding all people of the importance of safeguarding themselves and their families against tuberculosis.



Bulletin ... Santa will arrive in New Richland next Saturday, December 17. He is expected to come by sleigh and will have a bag full of candy for each little child. He will arrive at the Village Square. Time of arrival is expected to be 2:30 p.m.

Janesville Argus, December 8, 1955

Home Decoration Contest Now Open

The Janesville Chamber of Commerce urges all residents to do some type of home decorating and lighting for the Christmas season. To create a bit more incentive, the organization asks you to remember they are again sponsoring the decoration contest... Prizes offered by the Chamber are \$15, \$10 and \$5 cash for winners judged first, second and third.

New Richland Star, December 5, 1955

Waldorf Club Plans Party For Kiddies

A special Christmas party for the children of Waldorf and surrounding communities is being planned by the Booster Club of Waldorf. A Christmas program with special comedies and movies is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Saturday December 17 at the Waldorf High School auditorium. All of the children are invited and encouraged to come as Santa Claus is going to make his annual appearance and will be all too happy to talk to all the children. He will not only listen to all requests for dolls and other toys but will give to each child a sack of that delicious Christmas candy and nuts of course will be included.



Waseca Journal, November 28, 1955

Santa Claus is coming!

He'll arrive for a brief visit to Waseca Wednesday afternoon. He will fly in a special plane so he can make his visit with the children here. The plane and Santa will be in the Christmas parade and Santa will talk with the children. The main festivities of the Jay Gould St. Nicolas Holiday Festival and Free Christmas circus will take place on the corner of No. State St. and 2nd. Ave. starting at 1:30 with a stage show.



SANTA CLAUS will arrive for a brief visit to Waseca Wednesday afternoon. He will fly in a special plane so that he can make his visit with children here. The plane and Santa will be in the Christmas parade and Santa will talk with children. The main festivities of the Jay Gould St. Nicholas Holiday festival and Free Christmas circus will take place on the corner of No. State St. and 2nd Ave. starting at 1:30 with a stage show.



CHRISTMAS SPIRIT in the form of a decorated main street greeted shoppers in Waseca today. This picture, taken Friday shows city workmen stringing the lights and garlands of evergreen across main street. The poles were decorated also. Work began Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, and will be completed this week. The decorations give Waseca a Christmas look, an inspiration when doing the shopping for gifts.

A WCHS visit to Hartley Elementary

On November 25, WCHS went to visit 150 kindergarteners at Hartley Elementary. Vanessa Zimprich, a WCHS Collections Processor, talked about the Native Americans that once lived in Waseca County hundreds and thousands of years ago. Students were able to touch Waseca County history by examining up close the projectile points, scrapers, awls and other tools used by Native Americans long ago. European trade items such as bells, beads and a bear claw inspired the children to ask many questions. All were encouraged to visit the museum to learn more about these artifacts, and more about their county's history. Here are some of the pieces they learned about. The paper clip proximity provides scale:

What is an atlatl?

An atlatl is a weight, this one was once a circular piece, added to a dart or other projectile to increase momentum when thrust at a target such as an animal or an enemy. The atlatl actually pre-dates the bow and arrow. Thus, this is one of the oldest artifacts in the WCHS collection. *This was verified by Professor Ron Schirmer, Mankato State University on a visit to WCHS in July 2013. WCHS Artifact 1.13.295, 1"W x 2" L*



Where was this axe head found?

It was found in Blooming Grove Township by Ole Sonstebly, it is a hand-formed tool once bound to a wood handle with animal sinew or stripped bark along that groove. It's quite heavy and would have required great strength to use. *Donated by Dennis Bowe, WCHS Artifact 261, 2 1/4" x 8 1/2" x 5 1/2"*



How did Native Americans use beads?

Colorful glass beads were popular trade items used to decorate Indian clothing, c. 1840. *Donated by Mary R. Harris; WCHS Artifact 88.86.1a, 7/8" x 1 1/8"*



Of what is this arrow head made?

This early Woodland Indian arrowhead projectile is made of Galena chert, about 2,500 years old. It was found by George Goodspeed on the east shore of Clear Lake. *Donated by Frank Goodspeed, WCHS Artifact 1.87.324, 1 3/4" x 2 3/4"*



Here are some other

questions:

1. Who was George Goodspeed in Waseca County history?
2. What is "chert" exactly? Is it a mineral?
3. Who made the glass beads mentioned above? And how did they get to Minnesota?
4. How do pronounce "atlatl"? Why was it important to have that added thrust?

THE ANSWERS WILL BE POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE.

How many did you answer correctly? Where did you find the answers?

Other WCHS School Programming

The November program for kindergarteners is presented annually before Thanksgiving Day.

Last October the 2nd graders learned about the history, plants and animals that live in Maplewood Park. There is a classroom visit, and later they make a field trip to Maplewood.



The 3rd graders visit Courthouse Park sometime in the spring, weather pending. They learn about woods in proximity to the river and streams, the old oxcart trails, and how the park is used today.



In February the 5th and 6th graders experience the Annual Ice Harvest at Clear Lake. This is also part of the Sleigh & Cutter Festival. The students cannot attend if they aren't dressed warmly for the outdoors! But they learn so much and are rewarded with a ride on a horse-drawn wagon and if there is enough snow, sliding on cardboard "sleds."

RESEARCH REQUEST COMES FROM THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Last month WCHS received an email message from the Czech Republic, requesting information and perhaps a photograph of a young WWII soldier from Waseca, MN. The community where the soldier died in an air battle on August 29, 1944 was planning a 70th Anniversary Commemoration to honor all the American soldiers who died that day. The young man from Waseca was S/ Sgt. Robert L. Brown, the son of Alice Brown who lived on Elm Avenue W. at that time. WCHS staff researcher Linda Taylor was able to find the Waseca Journal newspaper account of Sgt. Brown's death. Mr. Vaculik was overjoyed to receive the information and photograph we were able to provide. We, in turn, were grateful for their acknowledgement of a native Wasecan who gave his life in World War II. Mr. Vaculik told us that ten B-17's were downed inside of ten minutes and 41 men were killed.

This is another example of the many unusual research requests we receive, and the hundreds of meaningful artifacts and papers that are quietly, but importantly processed and made available to people with Waseca County connections all over the world. —

WCHS Annual Fund: Building on our Success

YES! I would like to contribute to the success of the Waseca County Historical Society:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000

Please use this gift for:

Operations Greatest Need Special Project Endowments Bailey-Lewer Lib.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I have given grain at this facility: _____

I have included WCHS in my Final Plans.

I would like to contribute in Memory of _____

Please notify this individual(s) of my donation:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

**All donations will be listed in the next WCHS Annual Report.
The Waseca County Historical Society is a Minnesota non-profit 501(c)3 organization.
As a gift to the Society it may be fully tax-deductible.
Please consult your financial advisor for tax information.**

Please use the enclosed envelope OR donate online:
www.historical.waseca.mn.us and click on the "Donate Now" link.
You may use your credit card or PayPal.

Waseca County Historical Society

315 2nd Avenue N.E.
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507.835.7700

email: director@historical.waseca.mn.us

Joan Mooney and Sheila Morris, Co-Executive Directors
Board Officers: Audra Nissen-Boyer, President; Kate Youngberg, VP; Dr. David Pope, Secretary; Jim King, Treasurer
Jerry Rutledge, Henry Lewer, Brad Wendland, Jim Tippy, Marilee Reck, David Dunn, Linda Grant, Rev. Charles Espe,
Al Rose-Waseca City Council, Jim Peterson-Waseca County Board

Thanks to these generous donors & volunteers!

From September 20--December 4, 2014

These are quarterly new/renewed members, donations, acknowledgements. The WCHS Annual Report will list all members.

MEMBERSHIP

Renewing Members

Breen, Lillian (MN)
 Carpenter, Michael (MN)
 Cypher, Linda (AZ)
 Engle, Diane (OK)
 Ewert, Margaret (MN)
 Fell, June (MN)
 Fenelon, Kari (MN)
 Fenelon, Pauline (MN)
 Flood, Karen (MN)
 Fredrick, Pam (MN)
 Grable, Sue (NM)
 Grant, Linda (MN)
 Guentzel, Richard (MN)
 Hildebrandt, Anita (MN)
 Hodges, Greg (WI)
 Hoffman, Betty (MN)
 Hoversten, William and Patricia (MN)
 Hunter, Robert (MN)
 Jackson, Carol (MN)
 Kanewischer, Deanna (MN)
 McIntire, Betty (MN)
 Miller, Sarah (MN)
 Neidt, Millie/Diesch, Gordon (MN)
 Pope, David and Vanette (MN)
 Querna, Marie (MN)
 Reak, Bonnie (MN)
 Roemhildt, Charlene (MN)
 Rosenthal, Gregg (MN)
 Ross, Jackie (MN)
 Routh, Warren (MN)
 Sutter, Dorothea (MN)
 Welch, Eugene (MN)
 Wendt, Caryn (MN)
 Youngberg, Lucille (MN)

New Members

Bohannon, Jason and Angie (MN)
 Deml, Brad and Corey (MN)
 Deml, Gary and Laurie (MN)
 Deml, Mike and Kara (MN)
 Fretham, Kari (CA)
 Gash, Meredith (CA)
 Jaehnig, Marsha (CA)
 Kaufman, Mary (IL)
 Lefeber, Kathy Jaehnig (WI)
 Mueller, Emily (MN)
 Querna, Karen (WA)
 Stockman, Earl and Kathy (MN)
 Zellmer, LaVonne (MN)

New Sustainer \$100

Nelson, Phil (NC)

DONATIONS

Unrestricted Donations

Kaufmann, Mary Ann
 Grant, Linda
 Johnson, Steve and Jennifer

2014 Annual Fund Drive

Allen, Mary
 Anonymous
 Beckmann, Pat and Manny
 Born, Suzanne/Carol Cummins—*To honor birthdays of Don & Margaret Wynnemer*
 Dey, Cathy and Jim
 Espe, Charles and Kathy
 Forrest, Daniel F.
 Frisk, Bob and Kathy
 Fox, Jim and Elaine
 Gasner, Eunice
 Giesen, Marjorie
 Grant, Linda
 Harguth, Dorothy
 Hoehn, Glenn and Maxine
 losco Township
 Kastner, Bonnie
 Kiesler, Kal and Barbara
 Miller, Lorraine
 Nelson, Phil
 Oftedahl, Kathy
 Pang, Andrew Searle
 Sahlstrom, Mary Lou
 Searle, Alan
 Searle, Ruth
 Selvik, Bruce and Debbie
 Strand, Mel—*To WCHS Endowment*
 Tesch, Russ and Marie
 Tippy, Jim and Moira
 West, Tom and Francie
 Witt, Eugene and Fauniece
 Woodville Township

GiveMN Day

Anonymous
 Ashbacher, Jean
 Bagne, Myrwood and Helen
 Dobberstein, Deb and Gary
 Fenelon, Pauline
 Flitsch, Kathleen
 Friedl, Barbara
 Grant, Linda
 Habein, Harold
 Hintz, JoAnne
 King, Jim and Barbara
 Lund, Curt and Imker, Ben
 McEwen, Alice Maude
 Oelke, Neta
 Peters, Jurgen and Jacqueline

Rudolph, Janet
 Strenge, Gary
 Welch, Janet
 Wick, Ralph
 Wobschall, Carol

Memorials

In memory of Robert Marzahn
 by Janette Larson and JoAnn Sutlief,
 for the Bailey-Lewer Library
In memory of Oscar Storlie
 by Gene and Kathleen Rosenthal
 by Donald Lewer
In memory of Jo Poyser
 by Linda Grant
In memory of June Senn
 by Linda Grant
In memory of Bill Mittelstaedt
 by Linda Grant
In memory of my uncle, Bob Gigeay
 by Marjorie Giesen
In memory of my parents, Charlie and Dorothy Gigeay
 by Marjorie Giesen
In memory of Del Miller
 by Phyllis Lewer
In memory of Rod Searle
 by Ruth Searle
 by Alan Searle
 by Andrew Searle Pang
In memory of Eldor Mittelstaedt
 by Donna Fostveit
 by Bob and Janette Larson—*To the Bailey-Lewer Library*
In memory of Candace Chaffin Rinowski
 by Donna Fostveit
In memory of Willard Donahue, Waseca's first librarian
 Anonymous
In memory of Lorraine Carlson
 by Karen Roesler
In memory of Marvel Peterson
 by Karen Roesler
In memory of Vince Schultz
 by Bob and Janette Larson—*To the Bailey-Lewer Library*
In memory of Henry Rieck
 by Donna Fostveit

Appropriations

Otisco Township, \$400
 St. Mary Township, \$200
 New Richland Township, \$1,000
 Byron Township, \$250
 Wilton Township, \$300
 Blooming Grove, \$250
 losco Township, \$250
 Woodville Township, \$150
 City of Waseca, \$2,250—Second-half year payment



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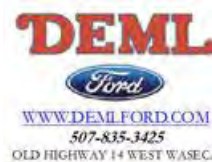
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stuff!" \$15

At the Museum Gift Shop
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Membership Renewal Date



What is your connection to Waseca County history? How do you support it?



1. **RENEW** your membership.
Increase your level of membership—be a **SUSTAINER**.
1. **Donate** to an **ENDOWMENT FUND**, the kind of gift that keeps on giving.
2. **Contribute** to the **ANNUAL FUND DRIVE** for Operations, unless otherwise designated
3. **Think about your final plans**.
Make WCHS a BENEFICIARY.
6. **Make a grain donation**.
7. **Become a History Partner** with a 3-year **pledge**.
8. **Match volunteer hours** with your employer's donation?
9. **Give WCHS membership** to your family members & friends.
10. **Donate as Memorials** to remember and honor loved ones. Call Sheila, with questions, 507-835-7700.