



ABOVE: The Bell Museum of Natural History's "Spring in the Big Woods" diorama re-created from our own Maplewood Park in Waseca, the reproduction borrowed for our Art of Diorama Holiday exhibit.

RIGHT: Inside the Bell Museum preparation workshop.



INSIDE: The Opening—"Where the Big Woods Meet the Prairie—A Timeline of Unique Stories from Waseca County" | Holiday Open House, Dec 5 | Our New Board Members!

History Notes is a publication of the Waseca County Historical Society ©2015
P.O. Box 314, Waseca, MN 56093
315 Second Avenue N.E.
507-835-7700
www.historical.waseca.mn.us

WCHS 2015 Board of Directors:

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Staff:

Joan Mooney, Co-Executive Director
Programs & Research
program@historical.waseca.mn.us

Sheila Morris, Co-Executive Director
Development & Exhibits
sheilam@historical.waseca.mn.us

Pauline Fenelon, Artifacts/Library
collection@historical.waseca.mn.us

Vanessa Zimprich, Artifacts/Website
artifact@historical.waseca.mn.us

Linda Taylor, Researcher
research@historical.waseca.mn.us

WCHS HOURS: Tuesdays-Fridays, 9-5;
Thursdays, until 8 pm; Closed Mondays



The Timeline Openings: Oct 8, 10 & 11



Events

December 5 | Holiday Open House, 12-5 p.m.; Art of the Diorama continues through January 15.

December 16 | WCHS Board Gathering

Closed December 24, 25, 31 & January 1 for the holidays

Open Thursday evenings until 8 p.m. on 12/10 and 12/17 only. Check the website for the January schedule!

Visit our website: www.historical.waseca.mn.us

Christmas shopping? www.smile.amazon.com and designate "Waseca County Historical Society"—.5% will be donated to WCHS!



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.



The Timeline Project has been financed in part with funds provided by the State of Minnesota through the Minnesota Historical Society from the Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund.

WCHS is also grateful to the Carl & Verna Schmidt Foundation, the First National Bank-Waseca, Principal Financial Foundation-John Priebe, and Bill and Patti Hoversten for match support to the Implementation Phase.



Dear Members

Some of you are heading south to stay warm! (Can I come?) Some of you are heading north for winter sports! Some of you will be heading out to the lake to ice fish soon. Wherever you are during this next Minnesota winter, know that we are here open Tuesdays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for exhibits, museum shopping, research, and a cup of coffee with your WCHS friends! We'll be planning the Spring Luncheon-Lectures for March, April and May, and Chautauqua July 2 at Trowbridge Park—we received yet another year of funding by Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council, the E.F. Johnson Foundation, and the Paul and Sue Rosenau Legacy of Angels Fund. You know the topics will be interesting, and the lunches yummy from Out-to-Lunch.

A new change this spring in February is that we have suspended the Ice Harvest event for sixth graders. Significant historical equipment was lost to a shed fire, and our volunteers, who have been so dedicated, are worn out. So instead of Ice Harvest in February, we will be welcoming sixth graders from all over Waseca County to the museum to experience the new Timeline of Unique Stories of Waseca County.

The Final Herter Exhibit

It'll open in June 2016, "The Authentic George Leonard Herter" focusing on the native son, his Waseca County roots, and those outrageous publications. The WCHS archive has original artwork, paste-ups, proofs, photographs from the Herter cookbooks. Ron Schara, outdoorsman and TV personality, will bring his show to our opening event, a **Herter's Potluck Supper**, scheduled for July 29 at the museum. Stand by for more details on this great event. The documentary filmmaker, Gideon Kennedy, will be back to film more interviews.



Ron Schara with Raven

Website Redesign Underway

We found that as the timeline exhibit evolved, so had the technology to enhance visitor experiences. We are planning a new responsive website, and we're looking at audio tour apps for smartphones and tablets. We want to make the Timeline information and extended narratives and images accessible online and on our smart devices as soon as we can.

The Year-End WCHS Annual Fund Drive

Many of you have already contributed, responding immediately to our letters sent out at the end of October. You're really coming through for your history center! Remember, it is the help we need to maintain operations, so that we can do our work here, write the grants for additional programs and events. You understand how that works, and we appreciate that support so much! The Annual Fund Drive has become a very important part of the balance of funding that makes WCHS a successful non-profit local history organization. Please understand that the Waseca County Historical Society is the primary keeper of Waseca County history. Its dedicated board and staff have been successful in maintaining the facilities and preparing for the Timeline to bring WCHS to a new era of professional museum programming

and community-wide participation and support.

The Annual Meeting & Brunch was very tasty, thanks to the Red Leaf Restaurant in New Richland. Thanks also to the City of New Richland for recent support and the use of their community center for our event. See page 5-6 for the results of our board election. Officers will be elected at the January 13 board meeting.

A great time was had by all at the **Waseca Chamber Business After Hours** gathering on November 16. Chamber members and our own WCHS members stopped by for treats and a look at the Timeline exhibit on the balcony. Marlys Monahan won the drawing for a personalized vintage sign. It takes more than one visit to absorb all that Waseca County history, so those of you who haven't seen it yet, should plan accordingly. It would make a nice respite during your lunch hour. We're open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

New Membership Goal: 100

WCHS has set the goal of increasing our WCHS membership by 100 by the end of 2015. We recently sent out letters inviting many who already participate and some who are very active in our community. We've enclosed our new combination Membership/Donation Envelope in which you can Gift a Membership for a friend, neighbor, or family; or you can



donate to the Annual Fund. Either way *please make use of the envelope!*

Congratulations to Larry and Jan Hofmann! On November 17, the **Hofmann Honey Farm** was finally officially added to the National Register of Historic Places. It represents the only Apiary on the National Register in Minnesota. The next steps will be featured in the Spring newsletter. —Sheila & Joan

The Art of the Diorama

WCHS connection with the Bell Museum of Natural History

Last summer as we became aware of the Bell Museum's plans for a new facility on the St. Paul Campus of the University of Minnesota, we called and talked to Don Luce, curator, and asked him what will happen to the "Spring in the Big Woods" diorama that was inspired and created from our own Maplewood Park. He welcomed our interest and assured us that it would be saved and reinstalled in the new facility when the time comes. Whew! We were relieved. Did you know that Peggy Korsmo-Kennon was its former Executive Director, and that she was also WCHS's former executive director?



We asked him if it was possible to have a high-res digital file of the diorama to showcase at WCHS. He rewarded us with a "yes" and 20 more images and information about its making and the background painting by Francis Lee Jaques. We decided that the "Art of the Diorama" could be our holiday open house exhibit theme. Allowing for lots of participation by the community, we relaxed the guidelines and invited the community to participate.

The following is from *The Making of the Bell Museum* by Don Luce, Janet Pelley, Kevin Williams:

"The single most important element in an effective diorama is the background painting. As in the theatre, the background painting sets the stage where the action takes place, creating the illusion of a larger environment in which the animals exist. If the background is successful, the viewer is transported to the habitat where the scene is being enacted, if not, the walls become obvious and the whole exhibit will seem contrived

Perspective, which is a rather simple problem on a two-dimensional landscape becomes a nightmare in the diorama, where it

must be incorporated on three walls and the ceiling. Whereas a landscape painting is optimally viewed from one location, the diorama will be viewed from any number of angles

Francis Lee Jaques relied more heavily on his intuition to achieve a convincing effect.

To create the illusion of atmosphere and depth the artist makes objects close to the foreground larger, more detailed, and more intensely colored; while details on



distant objects are simplified and colors and contrasts are subdued

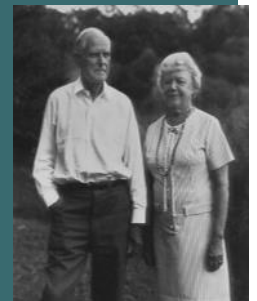
In the end, many individuals and elements contribute to a successful diorama. The museum scientists, designers, preparators, taxidermists, and background painters coordinate their efforts to fashion an ecological theme, a beautiful animal, and a spectacular scene into an aesthetic whole."

The Significance of Maplewood Park, a Maple-Basswood Forest

It is the ecological combination of living things, plants, animals, insects, and all that make the maple-basswood forests special, and still here to educate. All of this life interrelates. The larger animals have gone, unable to live in small tracts of woods, but the existing forest is here on the edge of Clear Lake surviving because of that location, and protected from further human intrusion. Frankly, it's a miracle that it does exist—historical attempts to develop the big woods happened first in the 1880s by the Chautauqua Movement; and again by encampments by the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts

Who was Francis Lee Jaques, 1887-1969

He was one of the great American wildlife painters. Born in 1887 in Aitkin, MN, his interest in the outdoors was fostered by many hunting and trapping experiences with his father. He loved the art and stories of hunting magazines. While still a teenager, he purchased a taxidermy shop for ten dollars. His paintings helped to supplement some income until he was drafted into the army in 1918. In France he continued to draw and paint watercolors, so that when he returned to Minnesota, he met Clarence



C. Rosenkranz, an impressionist, who helped Jaques with color and expression. In 1924 he was hired by the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. They sent him all over the world gathering exhibit specimens, sketching and painting. In 1927 he met and married Florence Page, a writer educated in the East. And they spent a great deal of time in Minnesota's Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Together they wrote and illustrated the well-known, Snowshoe Country and Canoe Country. They lived in New York for 25 years and then returned to Minnesota to work at the Bell Museum painting those beautiful dioramas until his retirement. His biography, *Francis Lee Jaques: Artist of the Wilderness World*. His remaining art works were donated to the Bell Museum and to the St. Louis County Historical Society in Duluth. He is also remembered at the Jaques Art Center in Aitkin, Minnesota.

in the 1940s-1960s. Maplewood Park has been part of the City of Waseca's Parks Department for many decades. Also the Waseca County Historical Society holds educational programs for elementary students in the spring. It's mission—to instill stewardship and appreciation of this local ecological gem, and respect for the grounds, plants and animal life, and parks equipment—signs, trash bins, picnic tables, and the pavilion. This has resulted in significant reduction of vandalism that once was rampant.

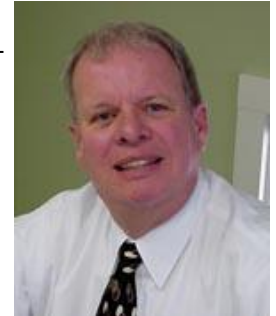
Maplewood Park is one of the unique stories of Waseca County, one of the exhibits on the museum balcony, "Where the Big Woods Meet the Prairie." END



Boardmember Jim Tippy was celebrated at the September board meeting for his three terms of service. The Tippys moved to Spokane, WA at the end of September to be nearer family.

On November 15 we held our Annual Meeting & Brunch. Those events are exciting for us because we get to review the year of successes and gratitude. We try to keep the reporting succinct and celebrative. This year was special because we could report the completion of the Timeline project, AND the addition of the Hofmann Honey Farm to the National Register of Historic Places—Huge! Secondly, the annual meeting was significant because we had to say good-bye to several passionate and long-time board members while welcoming new ones.

Jim Tippy: Jim Tippy was a devoted board member, a generous man with time and support. He served as President, Vice-President, and on many committees; was effective during the Capital Campaign; was extremely supportive of the Timeline project. Jim's other community service includes Waseca Rotary Club and the Marching Classic. He is a past Don Eustice Memorial Award winner. Jim came to our community with wife Moira, as the first warden of the Federal Corrections Institution. The first thing he did was to begin involving himself in the community, inviting organizations to lunch at FCI, and speaking to groups around Waseca. He helped heal the hurt caused by the closing of UMW that preceded the prison decision. The Tippys are one of the best things to happen to the Waseca area community! We wish Jim and Moira many years of happiness in their new home in Spokane.



Jerry Rutledge: Jerry also served for three terms. In August, Jerry and Linda bought a new home in Wisconsin near Linda's children and grandchildren. The Rutledges' financial support surpasses all others through his time before and during his tenure on the board. He also served as President, VP, and led the board during the Capital Campaign when he challenged the board to match his \$5,000 donation by adding another \$5,000. On the first day announcing the Capital Campaign to the County Commissioners and the public, WCHS had \$17,000 raised toward the \$150,000 goal. Jerry and Linda also created the Jerry and Linda Rutledge History Fund at the Waseca Area Foundation, to benefit WCHS. And a long-range gift of a charitable remainder trust to benefit WCHS when both Jerry and Linda have passed. This will eventually allow for a future endowment contribution that will add sig-



WCHS Board News

nificantly to the sustaining efforts of all of our endowment funds. Words can't convey our gratitude for their generosity to Jerry's hometown history!

Brad Wendland: Brad served for one term and remains completely supportive of WCHS's mission and accomplishments. He just recently submitted his resignation due to his business concerns. He remains available for our Building Committee as an advisor. His construction advice was crucial as we went through all those building upgrades in the last three years. *Thank you, Brad!*



Jim King: Served as President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and displayed leadership regarding many issues of advocacy, building improvements, policy updates, and hours and hours of volunteering for events. In addition we recognize his wife Barb, who accompanied Jim, volunteering alongside Jim and in her kitchen! Jim and Barb hosted our Christmas and summer board gatherings in their beautiful home. Jim helped drive the Timeline project as one of its main "cheerleaders". We thank Jim and Barbara both for their time, service and unending support of the WCHS mission and vision. Jim says he will continue to serve on the Building Committee and be available to aid those co-executive directors!



Our newly-elected board members for 2016-2018:

Judy Joecks: We are excited to have three new women directors achieving our goal of gender balance on our board. Judy and her husband farm near New Richland. She worked at E.F. Johnson for many years. Now retired she spends her time on family genealogy and the history of Waldorf, her hometown. She brings exceptional skills and that passion for history to our board.

Diane Beckmann: Diane is one of the busiest women around and brings enthusiasm for everything she is involved with. She is married to Scott Beckmann and is mom to two grown sons, and two grandchildren. She is NOT retired, and is a Thrivent Financial associate. She is also involved as past-president of Lions Club, president of Monday Study Club, United Way board member 2007-2012, and NAIFA. She also goes on mission trips for Grace Lutheran Church.

Gregg Johnson: Gregg is a Professor of Agronomy and Agronomy at the Southern Research and Outreach Center. He offers project management, teaching and grant-writing skills to WCHS. He led the way researching and preparing the history of SROC for their centennial celebration in 2013. He is active with Rotary Club, Knights of Columbus and the American Society of Agronomy.

Dawn Halgren: Dawn is a recent addition to the New Richland Area Historical Society Board of Directors also, so history is her focus. She brings more representation from the southern reach of Waseca County. And we look forward to working with Dawn,

Gregg, Diane and Judy in 2016 and beyond.

Katie Youngberg was elected to her second three-year term. Despite her busy schedule with the Waseca School Board and her devotion to the Boy Scouts, and school activities of her two sons, Katie opted for another three-year term. We're lucky to have her enthusiasm and passion!

Dave Dunn is 2015 Volunteer of the Year!

Here is the guy who likes to stay busy and looks for projects that help others. He "warned" us that when he actually retired, he would be here to help out. Here is a man of his words. Dunn sees what needs to be fixed, and then investigates, finds a resource, or does the fixing himself. He's ready to climb tall ladders to change out exterior banners, and help move large artifacts when needed. He's led a discussion about our WCHS mission statement, and was very active in our 2014 Strategic Planning. Dunn currently serves on our Education Committee to develop sixth grade curriculum based on the Timeline exhibit. *Thanks Dave!*

PHOTO BELOW: Dave Dunn, left, with Patrick Madden, who together with Dave Zika, restored the old St. Mary Church Memorial site with and clean-up and some fresh paint. This site is a meaningful spot for those who still remember the old church on the hill across from St. Mary Cemetery on Co. Rd. 4.



Thanks to these generous people!

From September 1-December 2, 2015

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

MEMBERSHIP

Renewed Members

Amsrud, Mary (MN)
Berger, Doris (MN)
Bluhm, Robin and Jane (MN)
Boyer, Tim and Audra (MN)
Buker, Mark and Barb (MN)
Byron, Jean (MN)
Byron, Mark (MN)
Carlson, Art and Nina (MN)
Connor, Matt (MN)
Deml, Gary and Laurie (MN)
Evers, Linda (MN)
Ewert, Margaret (MN)
Fell, June (MN)
Fenelon, Kari (MN)
Fenelon, Pauline (MN)
Gasner, Eunice (MN)
Gilbertson, Carolyn (MN)
Gilomen, Carollea (MN)
Harguth, Char (MN)
Hatle, Rodney (MN)
Hawkins, William (PA)
Herme, Barb (MN)
Hildebrandt, Anita (MN)
Hoffman, Betty (MN)
Holmes, James (FL)
Holweger, Rachel (MN)
Hunt, Nadine (CO)
Hunter, Robert (MN)
Jerabek, Barbara (MN)
Joecks, Judy (MN)
Kunst, Dave (CA)
Lechner, Karen (MN)
Lemke, Catherine (WI)
Linnihan, Michael K. (MN)
McDonough, Sean (MN)
McIntire, Betty (MN)
Miller, Andrew and Kathleen (MN)
Moyer, Greg and Brenda (MN)
Neidt, Millie and Gordon Diesch (MN)
Nelson, Philip (NC)
Nicolin, Jay and Nancy (MN)
Oblak, John (MN)
Peters, Jaqueline (MN)
Pope, David and Vanette (MN)
Prail, Janet (MN)
Querna, Karen (WA)
Rausch, William and Carol (MN)
Reak, Bonnie (MN)
Roemhildt, Charlene (MN)
Roessler, Karen (MN)
Ross, Jackie (MN)
Sandrick, Arleen (IN)
Schuster, Bonnie (MN)
Selvik, Bruce and Debbie (MN)
Sponberg, Jana Lee (VA)
Staley, Jayne (MN)
Suemnick, Phyllis (MN)
Tetzloff, James (MN)
Tlougan, Les and Karen (MN)
Vogler, William (MN)
Welch, Eugene (MN)
Welch, Janet (MN)
Wendt, Caryn (MN)
Williams, Jack and Mary (MN)
Zellmer, LaVonne (MN)
Zimprich, Shirley (MN)
Zwach, Don and Fran (MN)

New Members

Ball, Jim (MN)
Bye, Noreen (MN)
Cervenka, Robert (MN)
Enstad, Steven (MN)
Fitzsimmons, William and Sandra (MN)
Hanson, John and Lori (MN)
Hill, Thomas (NJ)
Hoffman, Robert and Judy (MN)
Hultman, Trudy (MN)
Jones, Doug and Lela (MN)
Lukkes, Renee (MN)
Mann, Dave (MN)
Miller, Juanita (MN)
Rosenthal, Gregg (MN)
Strom, Tom and Marianne (MN)
Suttief, Kelly (MN)
Tollefson, Nancy (MN)
Tuttle, Bill and Nancy (MN)
Wobschall, Carla (OH)

DONATIONS

Annual Fund to date:

Forrest, Sally—*To Bailey-Lewer Library*
Lois and Robert Chaffin
Virginia Swenson and Marjorie Gores
Don and Margaret Wynnemer—*Plus Exxon-Mobil corporate match*
Helen Miller & Miller family
Neta Oelke
L. Steve Johnson
Ole & Jean Lundquist—*To Bailey-Lewer Library*
Mary L. Allen
Scott and Diane Beckmann, *Plus Thrivent match*
Kent Schultz
Jeanette Rosenthal
Marjorie Giesen—*In memory of Charlie & Dorothy Gigeay, and in memory of Uncle Robert Gigeay*
Janet Rudolph
Dale and Judy Joecks
Caryn Wendt
Dave and Melissa Dunn
Nancy Nelson-Deppe—*In memory of Lowell & Mary Lee Nelson*
Ruth Searle
Mel Strand
Jim and Elaine Fox
Charles and Kathy Espe
Robert and Kathy Frisk
Mike and Linda Finley
Jim and Dodie Gerding—*In memory of Dr. Harold and Mrs. Irma Lorenz*
Jay and Nancy Nicolin
Larry and Linda Born—*In memory of Bom Livestock Business*
Dan and Cheryl Forrest
Janet Welch
Kal and Barb Kiesler
Greg and Donnette Wheelock
Bill and Patti Hoversten
Millie Neidt
Anonymous
John and Tracy Gutfleisch
Cathi and James Dey
Will Everett—*In memory of Constance Everett*
Jean Miller
Joann and Delency Suttief
Ray and Jackie Overland
Bernie and Ann Gaytko
Harlan Holmquist
Romelle and Robert Deef

Kathy Flitsch
Bruce and Lorraine Wick
Kathryn A. Tollefson
Jim and Barb King
Pastor Nancy Hansen
Juanita Miller—*In memory of James R. Miller*
Tim Penny
Arlene Peterson
Meridith Gash
Donald Priebe
Kate Youngberg
Russ and Marie Tesch
Gary and Deb Dobberstein
Betty McIntire
Eileen Arvesen
Neil and Susie Hovelsrud
Pat Wuger
Paul and Mayone Byron
Bev Wildgrube—*In memory of Merle & Edna Mycue*
Carol Jackson
Carol Wobschall
Eugene Welch
Deb Richard

Appropriations to date:

Alton Township, \$400
Otisco Township, \$400
Vivian Township, \$200
Freedom Township, \$150
Wilton Township, \$300
Blooming Grove Township, \$250
Janesville Township, \$100
Iosco Township, \$250
City of Waseca, \$2,250
City of New Richland, \$300
Waseca County, \$30,000

Memorials

In memory of Dale Keyes
by Gene and Kathleen Rosenthal
In memory of Harry Chin
by Sheila and Rick Morris
In memory of Walt Kinder
by Keith and Wilda Smith
In memory of Roseanne Rose
by Donna Fostveit
In memory of Mavis Wheelock
by Mary Jane and Bruce Stauffer
by Donnette and Greg Wheelock
by Joseph and Rebecca Haley
In memory of Max Hopkins
by Donna Fostveit
In memory of Gudmund Nodland
by Gene and Kathy Rosenthal
In memory of Merle and Edna Mycue
by Bev Wildgrube
In memory of Lowell and Mary Lee Nelson
by Nancy Nelson-Deppe
In memory of Dorothy Spies
by Donna Fostveit
by Russ and Terri Ingram

GRANTS RECEIVED

For the 2016 Chautauqua Event
\$4,000—From E.F. Johnson Foundation
\$2,000—From Paul and Sue Rosenau Legacy of Angels Fund

To the **Waseca County STS crew and Greg Klingerman** for moving heavy objects

To the **E.F. Johnson Co. Museum and John Oblak** for donating company artifacts: product line models, oil painting portrait of Edgar F. Johnson, EFJ University Chair, and Army-Navy "E" Award flag for contributions to the WWII efforts.

To the **Janesville Rotary Club** for inviting Sheila to speak at September 24 meeting

To the **Waseca Lions Club** for inviting Sheila to speak at November 4 meeting

To **Doug Lodermeier, Jeff Hedtke, Al Bakke, Vern Ferch and Bob Barrie** for displaying their Herter collections

To **Dave Dunn and Mark Buker** for repositioning the exterior banners

To **Dave Dunn** for fixing lighting around the place!

To **Jerry Boumeister** for structural assessment of Bailey-Lewer Library basement.

To **Kevin Clemons, Tim and Dan from Suburban Furniture** for moving heavy objects!!

To **Margaret Hasslen**, for mailing assistance

To **Jill Stagman of Pantheon Computer**, for technical assistance

At the Timeline Opening

Members Reception:
Joette Breck, for photography
Jim & Barb King, hosts
Marilee Reck, host
Linda Grant, host
Jane Dunn, host

At the Business After Hours

Reception:
Jim and Barb King, hosts
Linda Grant, host
Dave and Melissa Dunn, hosts

Projects & Possibilities!
+A Digital Projection System to enhance our program events

+Donations to the ADA ramp rebuild at the Bailey-Lewer Library

www.historical.waseca.mn.us

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Art of the Diorama:

DECEMBER 5 OPEN HOUSE, 12-5

Exhibit through January 15

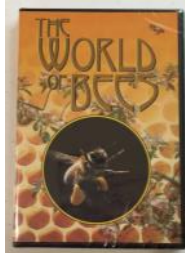
Membership Renewal Date



The Museum Shop for Christmas!

"THE WORLD OF BEES"

Newly restored DVD by Charlie Hofmann, available NOW!



HERTER T-SHIRTS \$15

"You can't write this stuff!"

NEW VINTAGE NOTECARDS \$4

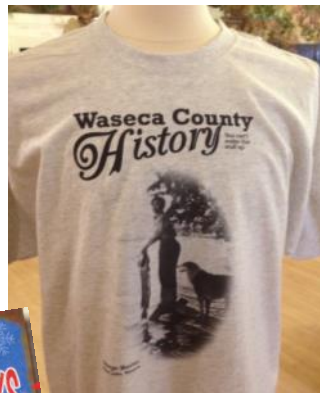
SOPHIE'S FRIEND Le Chat, for baby **\$15**

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Where the Big Woods Meet the Prairie

A Timeline of Unique Stories from Waseca County

On the balcony
ADA Accessible
Free Admission

It's about your history!

150 Years, from 1850s to the 2010s—
what do you remember? What's your Waseca County connection?