

Waseca County Historical Society

History Notes

Volume 38 Issue 4 December 2016

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



INSIDE: Holiday Traditions Open House | Annual Meeting & New Board Members | Hofmann Apiaries Update | Spring Exhibit: VANISHED! | Into the Collection | Research Library News

History Notes is a publication of the Waseca County Historical Society ©2017

P.O. Box 314, Waseca, MN 56093
315 Second Avenue N.E.
507-835-7700
www.historical.waseca.mn.us

WCHS 2017 Board of Directors:

Dave Dunn, President
Diane Beckmann, Vice-President
Kate Youngberg, Secretary
Dawn Halgren, Treasurer
Linda Grant
Judy Joecks
Gregg Johnson
David Pope
Marilee Reck
Dave Zika
Marty Buum
Virginia McCarthy
Jim King

Ex Officio

Al Rose, Waseca City Council
Jim Peterson, County Board

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;
Closed Mondays



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.



Winter Events

January 11 First WCHS Board Meeting of 2017, 6 p.m., at the museum

January 13 Last day of the Holiday Traditions exhibit

February 6-26 Sleigh & Cutter Days

March 4 Exhibit Opening “VANISHED—The First Settlements”

March TBD Timeline Education Day for Sixth-graders

April 3 Monday Study Club meeting, 2 p.m.

Gift Shopping Online? www.smile.amazon.com

Designate “Waseca County Historical Society”—a portion will be donated!

Don't forget to visit our other media!



How are we doing?

From Doug Lodermeier, Herter collector and exhibit collaborator:

Hi, Sheila,
First, thank you for the kind words. It was fun working with everyone over there for the last three years. You folks do a wonderful job and I hope we can work together again in the future. Keep up the good work! . . .

From a returning board member, Jim King:

The mark of a good organization is to look forward with new ideas, new blood and a new focus! However the end of the year is a time to look back and reflect on past accomplishments. When I first joined the board ten years ago we had some serious issues. Financially we faced the challenges of losing money every year, with no financial reserves and low endowment balances. We had some physical problems with our buildings, no permanent museum displays and challenges that had to be met. We did have a skilled and motivated staff and a board that were willing to meet some of these problems head on.

Your 2017 Fact Sheet is very well done, everyone should be proud of what WCHS has done over the years. I have been to a number of small county Historical Societies and we certainly rank among the very top! Looking forward to a great 2017!!



Hartley's 5th grade teacher, Mrs. Smidt invited WCHS to visit her classroom as they studied "Immigration". What does it mean to leave your home country, perhaps forever? What did immigrants accomplish?



Dear Members

A quarterly message from the Co-Executive Directors—Joan Mooney and Sheila Morris



Welcome new Board Members

—Virginia McCarthy, Marty Buom, and returning board member Jim King. Also, we're grateful that Dave Dunn and Linda Grant renewed for another three-year term. And though we will miss working with her, we understand how busy she is—Katie Youngberg has resigned. She is a devoted mom of two active sons. She volunteers on their behalf for the Boy Scout activities and, she also serves on the Waseca Area School Board. Thanks so much, Katie, for your time with us!

At the Annual Meeting on November 9, we paid tribute to two long-time and generous board members who “exhausted” their terms—3 three-year terms and more—Rev. Charles Espe and Henry Lewer; and we recognized our Volunteer of the Year—Judy Joecks.



Visitors Far and Near

The museum has been receiving lots of visitors. That is probably the best part of our jobs here—getting to know so many new people, and friends from past visits. The other day a young

father brought in his nine-year old daughter to “check out the museum.” Many people say, they have walked or driven by our building feeling curious about what is inside, but not having time until they do. They're always surprised at the Timeline exhibit. Some come in to shop. Some have driven here to research their genealogy. Some are visiting relatives and come in to see what has changed. Others are making their annual fund donations or updating their membership. “I don't want to miss the newsletters.” Still others stop in for a talk and a cup of coffee, “I have this stack of magazines and letters I found in a trunk in mother's attic, do you want them?” or “I need to write an article about George Buckman, as Curt Brown said before he wrote the article for the *Star Tribune*.”

Last summer a group of retired campers called from Kieslers' campground and wanted to visit our museum on a Saturday. We scheduled a date and time for their visit of about 12 people. They spent more than an hour reading every bit of the Timeline exhibit. They asked me specific questions about statements on the panels. They had visited many, many local history organizations similar in size to WCHS, but they thought WCHS was one of the best they had ever seen. Will they ever return? Maybe, maybe not, but their smiling and exuberant appreciation was very much appreciated!

Since the opening of the Timeline on October 8, 2015 we have noted that visitors have come from 30 different states, 133 Minnesota communities, and 5 foreign countries. Most recently a Janesville native came home from Guam to visit family. She sent WCHS a generous donation appreciating what WCHS does every day to support its mission of saving our county community's history.

It goes on, and it will continue to go on because residents and visitors continue to discover and rediscover what is right here in this community—a *cracker jack* museum and research library, and a passionate board and staff. Some people take longer to appreciate history, but sooner or later it happens. As individuals and as families, as organizations, and as businesses--we evolve and history will remember. Will you?

What's Ahead

As we've maintained the very same annual events schedule for ten years, we are looking at presenting some different programming this spring and summer—at the same time taking



some much needed time off. Then in 2018 the city of Waseca will be celebrating its Sesquicentennial and All School Reunion. WCHS historical resources will be available. Please remember! We are a staff of just 5 PT people. We can show you how to search, but you must do the actual research and presentation of that information—whether it is for a pageant play, banners, displays, brochures, music, photos, yearbooks, tours, newspapers, and more---**individuals and/or committees must plan to do the actual research.**

Ruth Ann Hager posters

Several years ago a WCHS member and friend who was so well known as a writer/journalist, Ruth Ann Hager, painted her impression of her hometown—Waseca. She passed away in 2014, and her family recently donated the remaining inventory of her watercolor painting prints. They are now available in our Gift Shop.



Ongoing Museum Building Electrical Improvements

We have replaced key outlets, fixtures, and other wiring in our 100-year old building. In January floor outlets will be installed on the main floor exhibit area so that we can light our display cases without a grid of taped extension cords about the spaces. Eventually we need to access the ring of fixtures that light up our beautiful interior dome painted by Mark Barens. This requires a rented man-lift and then determination of needs which we hope is just replacement of bulbs to LEDs. If you would like

These two brothers were the last visitors on the last day of the final Herter exhibit on October 28. One drove from South Dakota and the other from Missouri, both taking the day off. They loved learning more about George Herter's life in Waseca.



to contribute to the Elective Improvements Project, it will help us keep the WCHS Collection and our beautiful building safe.

Bailey-Lewer Library News

The Bailey-Lewer Library continues to be an important asset to the Waseca County Historical Society. New materials and sources are always being added to the collection. One of the most used resources at the library is the county cemetery index. The indexing and photographing of cemetery markers is always a

work in progress. That progress took a big step forward recently due to the work of Julia and Mike Laas of Bloomington who finished photographing and indexing St. Ann's Cemetery in Alton Township after two summers' of work. They also went the extra mile by creating and encapsulating very large sectional maps with burial names. Their work included copies of St. Ann's original burial records which they placed in 3-ring binders ready for the library shelves. All of their fine work is deeply appreciated.

Another ongoing cemetery project involves entering the cemetery information into the WCHS website database. Thanks to all the volunteers who have worked on photographing and indexing county cemeteries for many years, staff can now methodically view and enter each photograph and inscription from their work. Simultaneously, staff can review what has already been entered into the database and make corrections and additions if needed. Our policy is to enter exactly what the marker inscription presents us with. Some burials have no markers, but

The Need for Volunteers

If the budget can't grow, then the work ahead will have to be accomplished with added volunteers. More and different volunteers are needed to help keep the museum open for extended hours and/or to assist with regular tasks:

Collection Processing

Volunteers are needed to assist with some processing of artifacts, archives into the collection. It's very important work that requires attention to detail and belief in its purpose.

Secretarial

Some office or secretarial tasks are needed for mailings, attention to membership records, etc. Writers and storytellers are needed for writing research narratives.

Oral History Interviewing

If you like talking to people, you might like to record oral histories. This is a dire need as many WWII vets are aging. Others with unique experiences need to be recorded to add to the storytelling in our future.

Heavy-Lifting/Repairs/Painting

During exhibit installations and take-downs, we often need some "muscle" to move heavy artifacts, objects, boxes, etc. Some repair, fix-its, painting, and miscellaneous building and maintenance tasks.

Social Media

Social media management—do you have the creativity and know-how to promote WCHS on various social media platforms keeping in mind the WCHS mission and adhering to our values and policies?

Advocacy

Board Members are our advocates, but so could our most passionate local members. You could talk to groups, boards, individuals about our mission—and then about fundraising, volunteers, and other means of support.

The Hofmann Apiaries Project



The Hofmann Apiaries, located north of Janesville, MN was founded at the turn of the century and operated for nearly 85 years, receiving regional and national attention. It is the only apiary listed on the National Register of Historic Places in the state and the only one in the nation to offer interpretive programs and services to bee keepers.

Architectural Construction Drawings—\$16,000

Thanks to everyone who contributed to Phase One: Construction Documentation and Scope of Work. We have raised \$11,595 to date. Our new goal is \$3,400.

The drawings, specifications and scope of work must meet the Standards for Rehabilitation of Historic Structures to qualify for Legacy funding. The construction documentation will be used throughout the restoration process and for future maintenance. SMSQ Architects of Northfield have been contracted and are currently working on the documents over the winter. The ball is rolling!

The Honey House and Wax Shed are the primary structures for exhibits, programs and tours. The Honey House will serve as the centerpiece of the “Honeybee Farming” narrative, describing the processing, bottling, and marketing of honey. The building will feature interpretive signage.

The Wax Shed will house exhibits, including a permanent display related to “The Honeybee” narrative, describing how bees gather nectar and pollen, make honey, and pollinate plants, as well as the behavior of the honeybee.

The restoration project depends heavily on donations. Legacy grant requests outnumber available funds. Large grants are very competitive and can be applied for just once a year. The apiary structures are structurally sound, but the roof and window conditions are quickly deteriorating.

Please donate if you can . . .

We have much more information available. If interested call Joan or better yet, stop in. We are very excited about this project! Thanks again everybody! Happy Holidays!



The Waseca County Historical Society is a Minnesota 501c3 Non-profit Organization.
Donations are tax deductible. THANK YOU!



FUNDRAISING GOALS:

PHASE I

Construction drawings, Scope of Work, and Specifications
COST: \$ 3400 to go!

PHASE II

Estimated Total Cost for the Exterior Restoration of the Honey House and Wax Shed, COST: \$106,245

How To Donate

To make a tax-deductible donation, make check payable:
Waseca County Historical Society,
and note on the check memo:

“Hofmann Apiaries Capital Improvement Fund”

Mail to: Waseca County Historical Society
315 2nd Avenue NE
Waseca, MN 56093

If you have any questions, please contact Joan Mooney, 507-835-7700, or program@historical.waseca.mn.us

Hofmann Apiaries Advisory Board:

Larry and Jan Hofmann, Newell Searle, Gregg Johnson, Boyd Fuller, Jurgen Peters, Ron Purcell, Colleen Carlson, Jim Jewison, and Joan Mooney

Also visit: www.hofmannapiaries.org

we add those to the database if we have been given a reliable source to prove the burial such as an obituary or death record with cemetery name.

Two volunteers we would like to acknowledge and thank are Jan Hunter and Jean Lundquist. Jan has chosen to concentrate on locating stories of Waseca County crime and making that information available. Researchers can stop by to see if an ancestor was a victim or a perpetrator of a crime! Jean Lundquist has been reading and indexing Janesville Argus newspapers for years. She recently completed 1898 and says she will move on to something else when she finishes 1900!

One of the newest tools available to researchers is the new digital microfilm reader. Those who have used it are amazed at how clear the old newsprint appears on this large screen. The old microfilm readers will slowly be replaced by these more efficient readers. END



A Follow-Up to “Two Soldiers, Two Stories from World War II” from History Notes, September 2016—

Pauline Fenelon, WCHS staff, had processed this sennibari banner, but then learned of the Obon Society, whose mission is to return the sennibari to Japan. She received this letter a few weeks after sending them the sennibari in our collection:

Dear Pauline: This email is an update about the sennibari you sent to OBON SOCIETY earlier this year. We have documented and cataloged this item and it is safely stored away in archival containers for preservation. The images of this item have been sent to our scholars in Japan for analysis. They have examined the images and given the item their full consideration. They replied that this item lacks enough information to allow us to trace it back to the proper family. They feel very sorry they did not

have more writing to analyze. We will keep the flag in our archives and return it to Japan at some future time for it



to be used in educational displays to tell the story of this war, or pass it on to priests for proper handling. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your generous heart and warm feelings towards the people of Japan.

Respectfully,
Rex & Keiko Ziak
Obon Society Co-founders

<http://obonsociety.org> or www.obon2015.com

Into the Collection . . .

The McBride Family . . .

Sometimes artifacts come to the Historical Society in mysterious ways. Such was the case when several boxes of unclaimed family documents, photos and mementos were delivered to one of our staff members last year. The boxes were discovered in the attic of a Janesville house when a new family moved in several years ago. When this family also left, they decided to bring the boxes they discovered in their attic to us for safekeeping.



Cecelia McBride

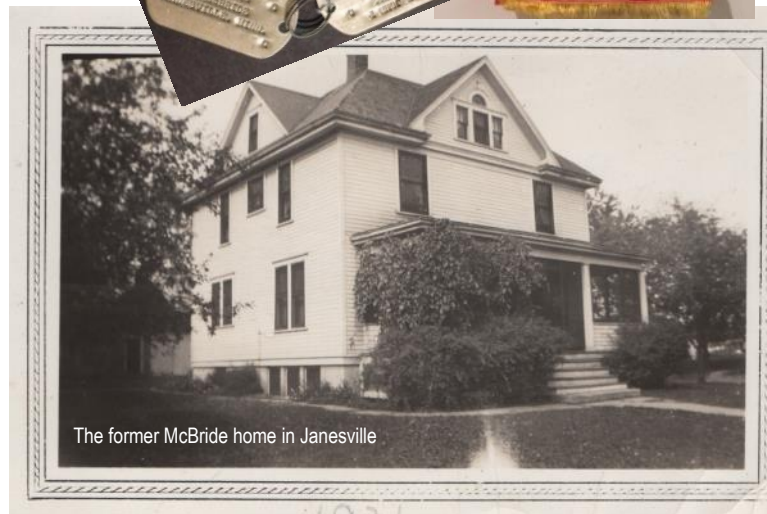
Originally, the home of James and Celia Foley McBride, the house had passed into the ownership of their daughter Cecelia McBride, a professional business woman who returned to Janesville to care for her elderly parents when they became ill. Cecelia lived in the house and worked as a secretary in the area for many years until she died in 2003 at the age of 97.

Her brother, John McBride served in the military in World War II. The Blue Star Flag hung in the McBride family window during his time in the Army Air Force in the 1940s. Many of the McBride and Foley family photos will be available on our

website in the near future as well as photos and descriptions of their mementos. END



John McBride



The former McBride home in Janesville

Thanks to these generous people!

From Sept. 1 thru Dec. 9, 2016—

Quarterly renewals and new members, donations, and acknowledgements, the Annual Report will list all members.

New Members

Lonneman, Carrie
Nelson, Doug
Greenwald, Gordon and Sharon
Hubschman, Donald/Donna
Stromme, Roy
McCracken, Bruce (MT)

One-Year Sustainer Members, \$100

McCarthy, George/Jean
Dunn, Dave/Melissa

Renewed Members

Amsrud, Mary
Anderson, Andrea/Ben
Bliven, Mark
Bluhm, Jane/Robin
Buesing, Orville (CA)
Roemhildt, Charlene
Buker, Mark/Barb
Bulmer, Diane (WI)
Carpenter, Michael J.
Cervenka, Robert
Cypher, Lynda (AZ)
Dey, James/Cathy
Dickie, Jeff/Jackie
Dobberstein, Deb/Gary
Dunn, Dave/Melissa
Engel, Kathryn
Ewert, Margaret
Fenelon, Kari
Fenelon, Pauline
Fitzsimmons, William/Sandra
Forrest, Sally
Fritz, Loren
Gash, Merideth (CA)
Gasner, Eunice (ND)
Gilbertson, Carolyn
Gilomen, Carollea
Grable, Sue (NM)
Grant, Linda
Guentzel, Richard
Harguth, Char
Harguth, Dorothy
Hawkins, William (PA)
Hodges, Gregory (WI)
Hoffman, Betty
Hogan, James
Hunter, Robert
King, Jim and Barb
Kunst, Dave (CA)
Lechner, Karen
Linnihan, Mike
MacFarlane, Colleen
Miller, Sarah Behrns
Morris, Rick/Sheila
Neidt, Millie
Norman, Beverlee (AZ)
Oblak, John
Rausch, Carol/William
Raymond, Ellen (FL)
Reak, Bonnie
Rosenthal, Gregg
Routh, Warren
Schuster, Bonnie/Lowell
Staley, Jayne
Sutlief, JoAnn
Welch, Eugene
Zimprich, Shirley

Year-end Annual Fund

Initiated October 14 to present
Allen, Mary
Alton Township Board
Arvesen, Eileen
Blooming Grove All-in-One Fund
Blooming Grove
Cruz, Karen A.
Crystal Valley
Curran, Helen
Deef, Robert/Romelle
Dobberstein, Deb/Gary
Dunn, Dave/Melissa
Espe, Charles/Kathy
Everett, Will
Ewert, Margaret
Gasner, Eunice
Gaytko, Bernie/Ann
Gerding, James/Josephine
Goehring, Pam/Larry
Harguth, Dorothy-In memory of Art Hutchins
Hoffman, Robert /Judy
Iosco Township
Janesville City Council
Joecks, Dale/Judy
Johnson, L. Steven
King, Jim/Barb
Lohse, Linda/Paul
Lundquist, Ole/Jean
McIntire, Betty
Miller, Jean
Miller, Juanita
Nelson, Carolyn
New Richland Area H.S.
Oelke, Neta
Personalized Printing
Peters, Jurgen/Jacqueline
Pope, David
Prail, Janet
Rosenthal, Jeanette
Ross, Jackie
Routh, Warren
Rudolph, Janet
Schultz, Kent
Searle, Ruth-In memory of Rod Searle
Smith, Keith and Wilda
St. Mary Township
Strand, Mel
Swenson, Virginia
Tollefson, Kathryn-In honor of Ron & Janet Johnson
United Group Benefits
Webber, Wendy-In memory of great-great grandparents, Patrick and Mary (Bradish)
Fitzgibbon
Welch, Janet
White, Mildred
Wick, Ralph/Lorraine
Wilton Township
Witt, Gene/Fauniece
Wobschall, Avis
Wuger, Patricia

Other Donations

Thrivent Match
Anne Kastner
Anonymous
Waseca Area Retired Educators
Roger/Jeanette Groskreutz
Steve/Theresa Johnson
Pat Hanson and family
Jeannie Lorenz Thompson and family
Scott/Diane Beckmann, Thrivent Choice

Jacqueline Senne, Thrivent Choice
Eugene Welch
Janesville High School Class of 1966
Carol Wobschall

Special Gifts

Henry and Phyllis Lewer, \$20,000
To establish a fund, "Bailey-Lewer Library Maintenance Fund"

Diane Beckmann, \$500
With Thrivent \$1,000, double match

Don and Margaret Wynemer, \$2,000
Exxon-Mobil Foundation, \$2,000 matching donation

Dale and Judy Joecks—A copy of Harold Tesch's WWII book of photos and narrative

Ruth Ann Hager family—The gift of Ruth Ann's watercolor prints inventory, and archives of her writing career

Memorials

In memory of Robert Sutter
by Ruth Ann and Don Miller
by Robert and Janette Larson
by JoAnn Sutlief
In memory of Gladys Deppe Kletschka
by Donna Fostveit
In memory of George Harding
by Donna Fostveit
In memory of Glynnis Phelps
by Donna Fostveit
In memory of Harold Ackman
by Dale and Judy Joecks
by Linda Grant
In memory of Ralph Huxford
by Dale and Judy Joecks

Appropriations, total for the year

Waseca County, \$60,000
City of Waseca, \$4,500
City of Janesville, \$1,000
New Richland Township, \$1,000
Otisco Township, \$400
Freedom Township, \$150
Byron Township, \$250
Janesville Township, \$150
Alton Township, \$400
Blooming Grove, \$250
Wilton Township, \$300
St. Mary Township, \$200
Iosco Township, \$250
Woodville Township, \$150

Grants Received

\$10,000—Minnesota Arts & Cultural Heritage Grant for the Hofmann Apiaries Phase One Project

Volunteers

Cap Peterson
CJ Joecks
Cory Boje
Eleanor Rezac
George Kastelle
Jean Lundquist
Jim King
John Hanson and students, Tyler
Wendland and Sam Nelson
Judy Joecks
Justine Meyer

Karl Jones
Linda Grant
Margaret Hasslen
Ole Lundquist
Rick Morris
Dave Zika
Dave Dunn
Dawn Halgren
Marty Buom
Jerome Broughten

Visitor Groups

Janesville High School: Class of 1964, 1966
Waseca High School: Class of 1951, 1976
Waseca High School Choirs & parents



Here's a Waseca High School senior who loves history and a lot of other subjects and activities—Olivia Boyer, the daughter of former board member Audra, and Tim Boyer. THIS IS ONE OF HER SENIOR CLASS OF 2017 GRADUATION PORTRAITS—taken in our own Bailey-Lewer Library!





NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WASECA, MN
56093
PERMIT 41

Waseca County Historical Society
315 2nd Avenue N.E. | P.O. Box 314
Waseca, MN 56093

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**“Holiday Traditions” Exhibit
thru January 13
Tues-Fri, 9-5—FREE!**

Membership Renewal Date



GIVE A GIFT OF WCHS MEMBERSHIP!

For a son or daughter, parent or friend.
You’ve enjoyed the learning and seeing, the searching online, the beautiful old photographs, and finding the unexpected historical tidbits!

Just \$25 for Individual Membership.

**USE THE ENCLOSED
MEMBERSHIP ENVELOPE!**

Also, what about the Gift of Remembering or Honoring a loved one with a Memorial or Honorarium in their name.
USE THE SAME ENCLOSED ENVELOPE!

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!
HAPPY NEW YEAR,
TO ALL!**



Deb Yess and the Waseca High School Choirs entertained for our Open House on December 3.