

Waseca County Historical Society and History Center

History Notes

Volume 39, Issue 4, December 2017

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



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P.O. Box 314, Waseca, MN 56093
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www.historical.waseca.mn.us

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Museum Hours

Open Tuesdays-Fridays, 9-5

Bailey-Lewer Library

Open Tuesdays-Fridays, 9-12, 1-5



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 &



CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT

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.



From the Executive Director: Joan Mooney

As most of you know, Sheila Morris retired from WCHS last fall. The WCHS Board and staff decided to assess our needs before moving forward to fill the gap left by Sheila's departure. Then, along came Andrew Breck! Andrew has a way of showing up at the most opportune times. In 1997, in celebration of the 100th anniversary of our courthouse, Andrew assisted in

filling and burying a time capsule under the nose of the courthouse cannon. In 2005 Andrew showed up for our first cemetery walk event with a car full of tiki torches when we realized how dark a cemetery can be on an October evening. In 2017 Andrew just happened to pop in and volunteer to assist with our first ever 6th grade program "Teachable Moments at the Museum".

As summer 2017 waned and days grew shorter, we began planning the annual "Holiday Exhibit" and trying to come up with a theme that we hadn't done before. By late October, I still had not chosen the theme. But in early November, news reached me that Andrew Breck was now the new caretaker at Courthouse Park! Immediately, I began thinking of all the beautiful things one can create using foraged materials from the woods, and I decided to run it by Andrew to see if he'd like to help us create a holiday exhibit based on our WCHS artifacts and materials provided by Mother Nature. He agreed, and just like magic, our theme "Christmas in the Woods" was created just in time for the Holidays!

Based on Andrew's awesome skills and all of the great interactions we have had with him, we invited him to join our staff in a newly created position, the WCHS Exhibit Designer/Builder. Andrew has accepted, and so he will be on retainer as an independent contractor, giving him the flexibility he needs to fulfill his other duties at the park and his own design work.

I would very much like to take credit for this new staff addition, however our new Museum Director, Vanessa Zimprich quietly reminded me that she had suggested this very person a few months prior.

We are all very happy with the two new positions created for WCHS. The second position created is based on Vanessa's extraordinary organizing skills and her passion for the WCHS collection. Vanessa is now the WCHS Museum Director in charge of the building and collection. I will remain Executive Director until I run out of big ideas which will most likely take a few more years.

So there we have it! We begin the New Year with new positions in place and a staff ready to move forward with enthusiasm and appreciation of each other's passion for Waseca County History. Thanks also goes to existing staff WCHS Researcher Linda Taylor, WCHS Curator Pauline Fenelon and Jan Hunter who steps up and fills in when extra staff is needed. We once again have our house in order.

Happy New Year to all!

Joan



From the WCHS Museum Director

A true love for history began when I was in grade school. Rice County was my home and the museum was the place to discover my roots. I never strayed too far from a historical society during my high school and college years. A move to Waseca in 2005 allowed me to volunteer at the WCHS. In 2006, my adventures with the museum world grew when I took on the title of Collections Processor a.k.a. Curator. For eleven years I scrupulously documented the history of artifacts and archives so they could continue to tell their story and forever have a place in Waseca County history.

Now, in 2018, I have chosen to continue my journey with the Waseca County Historical Society as Museum Director. A new title, but still me and my love for history.



From the WCHS Exhibit Designer

Greetings! Thank you so much the opportunity to be a part of such a wonderful organization! I've always enjoyed and appreciated the programming this institution has offered. I look forward to bringing several years of commercial and residential design experience as well as my passion for art and history to the Museum. I graduated with a bachelor of science in Interior Design and took a position with one of the largest architectural and engineering firms in the region while finishing my degree. I transitioned to the furnishing industry and have now gone back to my roots as an artist as I design and implement interior renovations. I am also filled with gratitude as I fulfill another passion of mine; the outdoors! I am excited to care for 175 acres of public land at Courthouse Park and can't wait to share my world with you.

At the Museum:

Current Exhibit: **Winter in the Big Woods** now through February 2018

February 2018: **Sleigh and Cutter Scrapbooks**

March 2018: **Waseca County and WWI E.F.Johnson Company**

June 2018 : **City of Waseca, 150 Years**

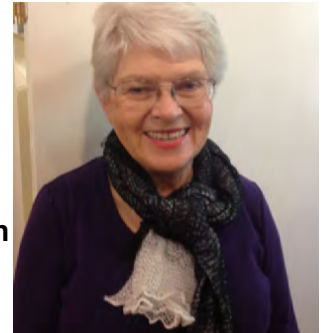
On going: **Waseca County Timeline of Unique Stories**

At the Bailey Research Library:

Waseca Farm Bureau Celebrates 100 Years
Scrapbooks are now ready for viewing.
Come on in!

WCHS STAFF

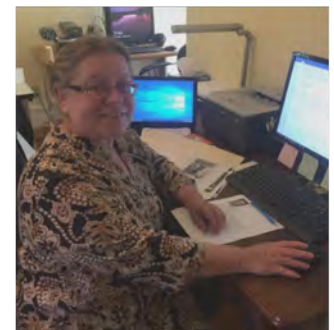
Pauline Fenelon
Artifact &
Library Curator



Linda Taylor
Research/
Genealogy



Jan Hunter
Research



City of Waseca Celebrates 150 Years!

1868 - 2018

My how time flies! We have the rest of 2018 to learn to pronounce “Sesquicentennial”. The State of Minnesota celebrated its sesquicentennial in 2008. Events were held throughout the state for the entire year. The Minnesota Historical Society created the exhibit “MN150” out of 2,700 nominations submitted by citizens from every corner of the state as well as around the world. One of the nominations accepted was Herter’s of Waseca” nominated by Doug Lodermeier. Another Waseca contribution you may not know about was the creation of the postcard mural “Greetings From Minnesota” created by Minneapolis clay artist Susan Warner , assisted by yours truly and the rest of the 87 counties that make up our great state. Warner had an idea and called me to assist. Her idea was to set up workshops regionally around the state to create mosaic tiles representing all the wonderful things Minnesota has to offer. All of the 87 counties each have a tile that makes up the border frame of the mural. Warner came to Chautauqua 2008 and set up her workshop. Many of you worked on the tail of the fish that day. My part was to contact regional historical societies and ask them to reach out to surrounding counties and ask what they would like on their tile to represent their county. The collected data was then turned over for

Sesquicentennial
ses-kwi-sen- ' ten-e-al
Function: *noun*
a 150th anniversary
or its celebration.



Susan to do her magic. The result is the gigantic mosaic postcard located on the Minnesota Fairgrounds found on the exterior east wall of the Dairy Building. For more information or to see other public art projects by Warner google <http://mississippi-mudworks.com>.

In 1968 the City of Waseca celebrated it’s first 100 years. Events were held through the year. The Waseca Journal published a special Centennial edition *The City of Waseca 100 Years of Progress*. We have copies available in the Bailey Lewer library for viewing. An Official Brochure-souvenir program was created and sold for one dollar full of fun facts, photos and events.

The *City of Waseca Sesquicentennial* will be celebrated throughout the year, beginning in February with the *Founding Fathers Beard Challenge*, our summer *Chautauqua in Trowbridge Park* on Saturday, June 30. The *Horse Thief Detective Society Picnic* is scheduled for July 4 at Trowbridge Park. The *All School Reunion* will join the *Labor Day weekend Sesquicentennial celebration*, August 30 through September 2, 2018. For details contact info@discoverwaseca.com, [facebook.com/WasecaAlumni](https://www.facebook.com/WasecaAlumni).

We have a lot to celebrate. 2018 will be a good year!

Joan

City of Waseca CENTENNIAL PARADE 1968



Build Your Own Float!



You didn't need to be a professional to construct a parade float. A number of manufacturers offered kits, allowing anyone in the largest city or the smallest town, display pro or amateur to build a float. Catalogs presented a wide variety of blueprints and suggestions, floral sheeting coverings made to look like blankets of flowers, and miles of garlands and fringe. In the 1950s a Minneapolis display company became the world's largest manufacturer of parade float kits. Vaughn Displays Inc. Leroy Vaughn and Cyrus A. Krate designed and created "float kits" that made it easy for anyone to build a float. They designed floats for the Minneapolis Aquatennial Parade and other parades nationwide. Vaughn Displays is still in business today under its new name *Victory Corps*. Float kits are still available! They are still located in Minneapolis. Google "Victory Corps" to find them.

There will not be a Sesquicentennial Parade Labor Day weekend as it falls too close to the **Waseca Marching Classic** scheduled for Saturday, September 22, 2018.....however, they are always looking for participants ! You can find more information on the Waseca Marching Classic website wasecamarchingclassic.com



Waseca Herald Nov. 21, 1912

The New North-Western Depot

Agent F.A. Wood opened the new North-Western passenger depot to the public last Saturday evening. While the building is not as imposing a structure as the people of this city had been anticipating, and felt they were entitled to, it is nonetheless a compact well finished building. It is located near the site of the old freight depot, west of

Second Street. The outside dimensions are 22 by 96 feet. It is built of Ohio pressed brick, with concrete foundation and slate roof.

The ladies' waiting room is the east end of the building and occupies a space 20 by 23 feet. A ticket office 11 by 6 feet comes next, and then a gentlemen's waiting room 20 by 23 feet. A lobby 4 by 11 feet extends from one waiting room to the other and gives access to the ticket office. There is a toilet and lavatory connected with each waiting room. There is also a large sanitary drinking fountain. Adjoining the men's waiting room is a baggage room 23 by 20 feet and in the west end of the depot is the express room, 11 by 20 feet. The office and waiting rooms have hard maple floors and are finished in oak in natural colors. The upper walls and ceiling are plaster finished in an artistic combination of green and drab. The baggage and express rooms have cement floors. A large platform scale is installed in the center of the baggage room, to facilitate the prompt weighing of baggage.

The depot is heated by a modern steam plant, located in the basement. The basement is entered from the baggage room. The latest ideas in electric wiring are used through the building. The lighting of each room is controlled from the ticket office. The building presents the last word in modern depot construction and could not be improved upon for a structure of its size. A substantial brick walk extends from First to Second Streets, between the depot and the tracks. The grounds on the north of the depot are being graded and leveled and when the work is completed it will materially add to the appearance of the North-Western's property in this city.



Ca 1935 Conductor John (Jack) Joseph Mitchell C&NW.

Unfortunately Waseca may be about to lose one of its most notable structures, the Chicago and Northwestern train depot. As we celebrate the Sesquicentennial of Waseca we cannot forget how the City of Waseca came to be. If not for the railroads we most likely wouldn't be here to celebrate.

The first railroad was built in 1867 by the Winona and St. Peter Railroad Company (W & St. P). This railroad traveled east-west from Winona to St. Peter. The Chicago and Northwestern (C & NW) purchased the W & St. P in 1867 but operated it by the same name until 1900. By 1870 the line expanded west to Janesville and beyond Waseca County. The Minneapolis and St. Louis (M & St. L) Railroad built a north-south line through the Village of Waseca in 1877. The last route through the county was a spur line built by the Duluth, St. Cloud, Glencoe and Mankato Railway between 1903-1907. This route cut across the southwest corner of the county. It became known as the Alphabet Road, and later was owned by the Milwaukee Road. This established Waseca as a major hub for the north - south, east - west railroads.

The Depots

One can only imagine the hustle and bustle occurring daily at the depots. Besides hauling freight, grain, lumber, mail and coal, passenger cars were added. At one time passenger trains serviced every town in Waseca County. One of these trains that is fondly remembered today was called the "Doodlebug". The Chicago Northwestern 400 ran from Chicago to Rapid City SD in the 1950's. Passenger trains came through Waseca several times a day in the peak years. The depots would come alive with activity as passengers arrived and departed. Friends and relatives said hello and goodbye, mail was exchanged, freight was loaded and unloaded, the depot was the busiest place in town. At one time the M & ST. L. and the C & NW shared a passenger station in Waseca called the Union Depot. Built in 1877 when the M & St. L began service in Waseca. It was destroyed by fire in 1912. *The Waseca Journal*, February 28, 1912 reports the fire started in Mrs. Flora Smith's restaurant in an adjacent building. The wind sent flames toward the depot building destroying the structure. The two railroads built separate depots in 1912.

Fortunately the M & ST.L Depot still stands and has been re-purposed as a hair salon.

In 1960 the M & St. L merged with the C & NW. The Milwaukee Road tracks were torn up in 1979. The C & NW in recent past was owned by D M & E Railroad . At present the current owner is Canadian Pacific Railroad.

Can some creative thinking save this iconic structure?

City of Waseca Assistant City Manager, Mike Anderson, checked into options for the depot in response to concerns expressed by the Heritage Preservation Commission as well as citizens. Anderson reported Canadian Pacific Railroad does not want the depot to remain in the current location. Estimated cost of moving the structure is \$200,000. Canadian Pacific has expressed they will demolish the structure in the near future. Perhaps some creative thinking, second estimate on moving the structure? A call to the Mayor?

The time is now!



The intersection of the north-south tracks with the east-west tracks in Waseca.



Original Waseca Train Depot. Servicing both north/south routes and east/west routes; built in 1877 when the M & St. L. began service in Waseca; it burned down in 1912; also referred to as the Waseca Union Depot, used by the Winona & St. Peter, and the Minneapolis & St. Louis; faced the southwest; located at the diamond of these railroads' intersection west of the Southern Minnesota Grocery Co. Warehouse. Photo ca 1900



The new M & St. L depot built after fire in 1912 destroyed the shared Union Depot. Now Cassie's Classic Cuts Hair Salon.



Bailey– Lewer Research Library

401 NE 2nd St. Waseca, just across the street from the museum. Tues.—Friday, 9 a.m.—Noon
1 p.m. to 5 p.m. (507) 835-7700

Anyone get one of these for Christmas?

Need help understanding the data?

Curious to know more?



Members and the public are always welcome to visit the Bailey/Lewer Research Library. Sometimes there is a fee for using our resources if you are a non-member. Students are always free. Annual memberships begin at \$25.

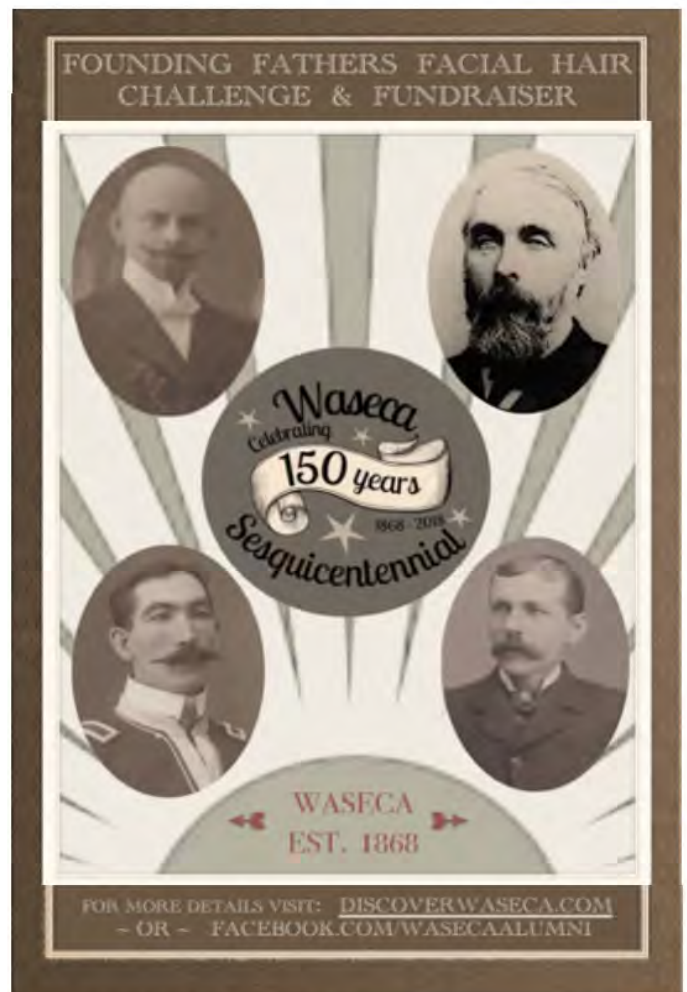
We are also an affiliate *Family Search library* . Over the past months, this free site has been loading up records from all over the world as well as the United States as never seen before! The *Family Search Library* and *Ancestry* have merged but hold different records. The Bailey/Lewer Library, being an affiliate Family Search Library gives visitors access to more records than can be viewed from home. This is an incredible resource for **anyone** interested in learning more about who we are and where we came from.

We invite you to make an appointment with WCHS researcher Linda Taylor for a personalized 1 hour session. This is free to members, non members fee is \$10 per hour.

Linda is here Wednesday–Friday, 9 a.m. to Noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. 507-835-7700

It's all here for you to discover!

Sesquicentennial Event →





FOUNDING FATHERS FACIAL HAIR CHALLENGE & FUNDRAISER

From February 10th - September 1st competitors will grow their **MUSTACHIO BEARDEDNESS!!!** During that time period, competitors will collect coins or larger denominations from admirers to be donated to the **Sleigh & Cutter Children's Dream Catcher Fund**. At the end of the designated growing period facial hair will be judged according to the following criteria:

Judging Criteria:

- Natural Hanging Length (25%) scored from chin bone for beards and center of nose for mustache.
- Furry Fullness (25%) scored according to styled width & depth.
- Style & Sophistication (25%) this is pure presentation.
- General Manliness (25%) 'nough said!

Prizes To Be Awarded For:

- overall score for mustache/beard based on cumulative criteria
- largest amount raised from MUSTACHIO BEARDEDNESS admirers
- most original and unique design
- "best effort"

Here are the rules:

- 1 Must pre-register and sign up for a shave at Icon Barbers in Downtown Waseca on the corner of State Street and Old US 14. There is a \$25 entrance fee (payable to Sleigh & Cutter), proceeds go to support the **Children's Dream Catcher Fund** - the foundation of the Sleigh & Cutter Festival which provides for the needs of families with children suffering life threatening health conditions.
- 2 Show up for your appointed shave time at Icon Barbers on **Saturday February 10th between 1-5 pm** after the S&C parade to receive a STRAIGHT RAZOR SHAVE (any existing facial hair will be shaved clean off).
- 3 Grow your facial hair from February 10 through September 1 in the style that best fits you and your personality. When people make a comment share with them about the **S&C CDC Fund** and ask them to partner with a small donation.
- 4 Show up at 1 pm for judging and pictures during the Ice Cream Social on September 1st with your best attempt at MUSTACHIO BEARDEDNESS!!!

Special Thanks To Our Sponsors:



Jay Brown & Icon Barbers
103 N. State Street
Waseca, MN 56093
507-381-8958



Ellen Koenigs & Y Barbers:
231 Belgrade Avenue
North Mankato, MN 56003
507-345-3058

Membership and Donations

From Sept. 2, 2017- Jan. 18, 2018

New Members

Curran, John
Garms, Dennis and Linda
Gruetzmacher, Bonnie
Grund, Genell A.
Inman, Steven
Jes, Tom
Maas, Ivan
Strain, Reid and Family
Walther, Dianne
Whiting, Gwen

New Lifetime Members

Beckmann, Diane

Renewing Members

Amsrud, Mary	Jones, Doug & Lela
Bartelt, Jane and Mark	Joyce, Ron
Bluhm, Jane & Robin	Kubat, Michael & Kasondra
Boyer, Tim & Audra	Kunst, Dave
Buesing, Orville	Lechner, Karen
Byron, Brenda	Mann, Dennis
Byron, Mark	McIntire, Betty
Castor, Patrick	Milkin, Noralee
Cervenka, Robert	Miller, Juanita
Connor, Matt	Morris, Sheila & Rick
Coyer, Gayle	Oftedahl, Kathleen
Deml Gary & Laurie	Peters, Jackie
Dunn, Dave & Melissa	Pettengell, LuEllen
Espe, Charles & Kathryn	Roemhildt, Charlene
Ewert, Margart	Rosenthal, Gregg
Fenelon, Kari	Sankovitz, Thomas & Gretchen A.
Fenelon, Pauline	Schultz, Harlan
Gilomen, Carollea	Smith, Martin
Goehring, Pam and Larry	Swenson, Virginia
Gore, Marjorie	Sutlief, Jo Ann
Grant, Linda	Teskey, John
Guentzel, Richard	Tlougan, Les & Karen
Habeck, Bill	Tollefson, Nancy
Hanson, John and Lori	Traver, Paulette
Herme, Barb	Walter, Bonnie
Hoffman, Betty	Welch, Eugene
Hogan, James	Wendt, Caryn
Holmes, James G.	Wobschall, Carol
Hunt, Nadine	Zellmer, LaVonne
Hunter, Robert	
Joecks, Judy	

Honorariums

In honor of Linda Grant

by Newell Searle
by Alan Searle

In honor of Ronald and Janet Johnson

By Kathryn Tollefson

In honor of Sheila Morris' Retirement

by Silvan Durben
by Pastor Charles and Kathy Espe
by Patricia and William Hoversten
by Judy and Dale Joecks
by Peggy Korsmo-Kennon
by Harlan and Marlene Stoehr
by Don and Fran Zwach

In honor of Newell Searle

by Linda Grant
by Alan Searle

In honor of Sig Thompson

by Rosanne Barbknecht

Memorials

In memory of Allen R. Butler
by Cleora and Donald Gehloff

In memory of David Byer
by Donna Fostveit

In memory of James E. Child
by Francia K. Hawkins

In memory of Diane Collins
by Donna Fostveit

In memory of Karla Kay Decker
by Donna Fostveit

In memory of Robert Evans
by Bob and Janette Larson

In memory of Marge Finley
by Mike and Linda Finley

In memory of Marlin Gehring
by Nancy Nelson-Deppe

In memory of Bob Gigeay
by Marjorie Giesen

In memory of Charlie and Dorothy Gigeay
by Marjorie Giesen

In memory of Bill Hawkins
by Francia K. Hawkins

In memory of R.E. Hodgson
by Jean Margaret Horner (Peggy)

In memory of Gerald Hullopeter
by Donna Fostveit

In memory of Tracy Jevning
by Donna Fostveit
by Russ and Terri Ingram

In memory of Joyce Josephes
by Richard Josephes

In memory of George Kastle
by Donna Fostveit
by Sheila Chin Morris

In memory of Calvin Kiesler
by Barbara Kiesler

In memory of Carol Kingston
by Donna Fostveit

In memory of Dale Kratz
by Cleora and Donald Gehloff

In memory of James R. Miller
by Juanita Miller

In memory of Elizabeth Moen
by Becky Joecks

In memory of Marilyn Nelson
by Donna Fostveit

In memory of Clarence and Helen Rudolph
by Janet Rudolph

In memory of Audrey Neidt Schmidt
by Robert and Romelle Deef

In memory of Iola Root Schroeder
by Laurie Velett

In memory of The Sponberg Family
by JanaLee Sponberg

In memory of Marvin Sutter
by Janette Larson
by JoAnn Sutlief

In memory of Richard (Dick) Sutter
by Audrey Hayes
by Janette and Bob Larson
by JoAnn and Delency Sutlief

In memory of G. Clint Ward
by Paul and Doris Ward

In memory of Edna Marie Wells
by Donna Fostveit

In memory of Ethel Wilker
by Cleora and Donald Gehloff

Township Appropriations 2017

Wilton Township \$300
Woodville Township, \$150
Byron Township, \$250
Freedom Township, \$150
Alton Township, \$400
Blooming Grove Township \$35
St. Mary Township, \$200
Vivian Township \$200
New Richland Township \$1,000
Janesville Township \$300

Donations

Waseca Central Class
of 1957
City of New Richland
Eugene Welch
Andrew Beckmann
Diane Beckmann
Scott Beckmann
Patricia Wuger
Donald Wynnemer
City of Waseca
Waseca County

Thank you to all the following for your Generous Contributions to the WCHS Year's End Annual Giving Campaign 2017 !

Barbknecht, Rosanne
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 Boyce, Bruce and Sally Takala
 Buker, Barb and Mark
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 Connors Plumbing & Heating
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 Deef, Robert and Romelle
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 Joecks, Dale and Judy
 Joecks, Becky
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 Johnson, Ron
 Jones, Karl
 Josephes, Richard
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 Kiesler, Steve and Belinda
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 Lewer, Phyllis and Henry
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 Marquardt, Phil and Bonnie
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 Sponberg, JanaLee
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 Walter, Kevin
 Ward, Paul and Doris
 Wendt, Caryn
 Wheelock, Greg and Donnette
 White, Millie
 Witt, Eugene and Fauniece
 Zika, Dave
 Zwach, Don and Fran



Thank you to the Waseca Area Foundation for supporting the creation of the City of Waseca traveling exhibit "Waseca, the First 150 years", and Chautauqua 2018.



Thank you to Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council for support received for Chautauqua 2018. 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."



Support WCHS!

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A new program started this summer involving museums across the nation. WCHS, as well as most of the SoMN History members will be Blue Star Museums, which means we will offer free admission to all visiting active military and their families. As WCHS already offers free admission to visitors, we will provide each active soldier a free WCHS one-year membership. Value \$35.



SoMN History Website:

So many Stories So Minnesota!

WCHS is collaborating with five other historical museums in southern Minnesota to market history. "SoMN History." is a website with framed tours and information for weekend and mid-week visitors who may be families, couples, retirees, family historians, home-schoolers, and others. Visit somnhistory.com to see what's happening!



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Waseca, MN 56093

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Membership Renewal Date



DM&E Railroad 1988.
Currently Canadian Pacific Railroad

Donate to the Hofmann Apiaries Improvement Fund

Make your tax-deductible check payable:
“Waseca County Historical Society” and write 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 **Visit: www.hofmannapiaries.org**

Advisory Board: Larry and Jan Hofmann, Newell Searle, Gregg Johnson,
 Boyd Fuller, Jurgen Peters, Colleen Carlson, Jim Jewison,
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