

# History Notes

Volume 41, Issue 1, February 2019

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



REV. PATRICK MCCABE  
OCT. 25, 1822



The Catalpa Rescue, 1876

Fr. Patrick McCabe played a heroic role in the escape of Fenians, including six on the whaler Catalpa in 1876, from the English Penal Colony in Fremantle, Western Australia to freedom in America.

Go raibh maith agat, brave and faithful priest!

The Fenian Memorial Committee of America May 18, 2019

## Inside:

- **Feature Story :** **Father Patrick McCabe**
- **On going Exhibits :** *The City of Waseca, the first 150 years*  
*A Timeline of Unique Stories from Waseca County*
- **New Exhibits:** *Sleigh and Cutter Festival Archival Scrapbooks*  
*A Bit of Green - Happy St. Patrick's Day!*

History Notes is a publication of the Waseca County Historical Society ©2019  
P.O. Box 314, Waseca, MN 56093  
315 Second Avenue N.E., 507-835-7700  
www.historical.waseca.mn.us

**WCHS 2019 Board of Directors:**

Diane Beckmann, President  
Virginia McCarthy, Secretary  
Dawn Halgren, Treasurer  
Marty Buum  
Molly Byron  
Dave Dunn  
Linda Grant  
Dale Groskreutz  
Brian Harguth (Waseca Co. Commissioner)  
Gregg Johnson  
Karl Jones  
Carol Raimann  
Al Rose  
Dave Zika

**Staff:**

Joan Mooney, Executive Director  
Grant Administration, Programs & Research  
director@historical.waseca.mn.us  
joanm@historical.waseca.mn.us

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

Amanda Larkin, Photograph Archivist  
amandl@historical.waseca.mn.us

Vanessa Zimprich, Museum Director  
Curator  
director@historical.waseca.mn.us  
vanessaz@historical.waseca.mn.us

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

**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 & 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

Dear Members,

Another year past, another year looking forward. Since we are beginning a new year, I felt this would be a good time for reflection and renewal, and a good time to update you on several projects I'm focused on.

Much of my time in 2019 will be working on three very important preservation projects.

- 1) The Hofmann Apiaries Restoration Project
- 2) The Bailey-Lewer Research Center Porch and Ramp Repair
- 3) City of Waseca Downtown Historic District

First, I am happy to report that WCHS received the large Legacy grant we applied for to repair the roof and windows of the **Hofmann Apiaries Honey House and Wax Shed** which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Construction will begin this spring. The second project for repairs to the **Bailey-Lewer Research Center** porch and ramp has been funded by a generous donation from Henry and Phyllis Lewer, and also from Mary Allen in honor of her husband and my teacher, Phil Allen. This property is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places. And third the Heritage Preservation Commission on which I serve, has in motion a nomination for the **Waseca Downtown Commercial area to become a National Register Historic District.**

You may ask why we spend so much time on these projects. And yes, working through all the red tape and the complications that come with grant writing, construction time lines, local, state and federal codes and standards especially with properties listed on the National Register, can be very stressful, indeed. When grant money is received from the State of Minnesota, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and Grant Office make sure that the standards are met and that the money is spent for what each grant specifies.

I have had to hone my grant writing skills and learn how to most efficiently coordinate the calendars and needs of our architects, contractors and everyone else working on each project. And of course, each project comes with its own unique set of challenges and setbacks. So, it is not all "fun and games". You may wonder if its worth all of the time, effort and money spent on these properties. To this I must say, National Register Standards are put in place on a federal level by the National Park Service, because these properties are, by their standards "**national treasures**". Following these federal standards insures that the properties are 1) preserved by implementing the best practices and materials for the preservation of the structure; 2) that the structures are protected from damage due to the use of incompatible materials and applications. A shining example of preservation done right is the recently completed Waseca County Courthouse masonry and window restoration.

Special thanks need to be given to Jan and Larry Hofmann for partnering with WCHS on the next leg of this adventure for Hofmann Apiaries; to Mary Allen and family and to Henry and Phyllis Lewer for their caretaking the family home, now the Bailey-Lewer Research Center; and to the Waseca County Commissioners and citizens for supporting the Courthouse repairs.

Thanks also to the Ron Johnson Family Foundation and to Caryn Wendt for providing funding for a second digital microfilm reader for the Bailey Lewer Research Center.

Preserving history is expensive and difficult. Your support encourages us to forge on with our stated mission: to collect, preserve, interpret and disseminate the history of our county and citizens, and to create excitement and interest in our past. To this I say Thank you!



# From the WCHS Museum Director

Vanessa Zimprich

I started 2019 setting two membership goals for WCHS. One was to have 300 members representing Minnesota on the WCHS Membership Representation Map. I wrote letters to many Minnesota residents, especially those with ties to Waseca County history. I felt it was important to let them know that we value their participation in the continuation of preserving Waseca County history for future generations. We invited them to become a friend of Waseca County history by joining the WCHS. My second goal was to have a member from each state. Originally, there were only 17 of the 50 states represented, but as we begin the month of February, we have 22 of the 50 states accounted for! It is working and I am thrilled for WCHS! Take a look at the WCHS Membership Representation Map and if you see a zero representing a state, please gift your friend a WCHS Membership, we would be honored if they became the first friend of Waseca County history to represent their state! I am so excited to meet these goals for WCHS!

WCHS Membership Representation Map



“A Bit of Green” currently on display at your WCHS museum



## WCHS STAFF

**Pauline Fenelon**  
Artifact & Library Curator



**Linda Taylor**  
Research & Genealogy



**Jan Hunter**  
Research



**Amanda Larkin**  
Photograph Archivist



**Andrew Breck**  
Exhibit Design



## Father Patrick McCabe

By Donna Fostveit

St. Mary Cemetery, in Section 33 of St. Mary Township, Waseca County has long been the home to a rather famous Roman Catholic priest by the name of Fr. Patrick McCabe (1822-1899).

Our files in the Bailey Lewer Research Center contain several articles written about Fr. McCabe. He was born in County Cavan, Ireland on October 25, 1822. Father Patrick was ordained in March 1859 by the Rt. Rev. Mon. H. C. Whelan for the diocese of Perth, W. A., arriving there on August 8.

In 1868, we find him as a priest for almost nine years in the Diocese of Perth, Australia, which covered nearly a million square miles. That same year, a British ship brought sixty Irish political prisoners there to be incarcerated in the Fremantle prison. Among these prisoners was John Boyle O'Reilly. John was a former member of the British Army who had been court-martialed in England and sentenced to death for his part in the 1867 Fenian revolt, but his sentence had been changed to 20 years penal servitude. After spending about a year in English prisons, O'Reilly and others were shipped to Fremantle, Australia. The journey took three months, during which time O'Reilly and his literary-minded companions produced *The Wild Goose*, a manuscript journal seven issues long. John Flood was the editor, O'Reilly the assistant editor.

Once in Australia, O'Reilly was befriended by a Fr. Lynch and told him that his goal in life was to escape Australia and go to America to help the plight of the Famine Irish there. Fr. Lynch believed him and promised to talk to Fr. McCabe to enlist his help in the escape. O'Reilly was eventually assigned to a work party in the Bunbury district about 120 miles southwest of Perth. Fr. McCabe was rebuilding the little church in Bunbury at the time, among his numerous other priestly duties. One day he sent a trusted friend, James Maguire, with a personally written note to O'Reilly. Maguire helped get O'Reilly on Captain Gifford's American whaling boat, the *Gazelle*, in February 1869. About the end of November the same O'Reilly arrived in the United States to eventually become editor and part proprietor of the *Boston Pilot*, a prominent Irish Catholic newspaper. In 1876, the Catalpa Expedition secured the release of his fellow political prisoners still there, accounts of which are in many libraries.

It was just a matter of time before it became known to the authorities that Fr. McCabe had helped O'Reilly in his escape. Fr. McCabe left Northampton on horseback for Albany, a distance of 600 miles. Wild dogs attacked his horse along the way, causing him to fall and break a wrist. In early May he sailed from Albany to Adelaide, South Australia, where he had charge of a parish for a few years.



Fr. Patrick McCabe

Photo Credit: Michael Linnehan- Find A Grave

Fr. McCabe made contact with his friend, John Boyle O'Reilly in Boston when he arrived in the United States. He met him again when O'Reilly was giving a lecture in St. Paul, Minnesota in March 1890. He stayed as O'Reilly's guest two days in St. Paul and the reunion was joyful for both, according to Roche's life story of O'Reilly (1891). O'Reilly died six months later. While Roche was preparing the biography of O'Reilly, he was hearing that O'Reilly had broken his parole by escaping from Australia. He wrote to Fr. McCabe and Captain Hathaway (who had been the Third Mate aboard the *Gazelle*) and received the following from Fr. McCabe (Hathaway's testimony was equally emphatic), "John Boyle O'Reilly never broke his parole, never having one to break...Silence the vile wretch that dares to slander the name of our dear departed friend and you will have my blessing."

In 1882, Fr. McCabe was appointed by Bishop Ireland of the St. Paul, Minnesota Diocese as pastor of St. Mary's Church, near Waseca. On the Sunday before Christmas, December 20, 1885, the five year old church building was destroyed by fire.



The account that Anne E. Hoehn brought to WCHS states that "...Fr. McCabe had celebrated Mass in the morning with no signs of trouble. Very little of the contents was saved. A beautiful statue of St. Joseph, which has been presented to the church two months previous by Peter Burns and Christie Hefferan, and the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary were removed from the burning building. Thomas Geraghty and James Byron were instrumental in saving the chalices and some of the altar furniture. Many of the parishioners gathered and stood helplessly by with tear-rimmed eyes and broken hearts, as they watched the endless hours of labor turn to ashes... Fr. McCabe was moved to Mapleton...returned (in 1890) and remained pastor until his death in 1899." He died on October 21, 1899 and today his tombstone can easily be recognized in the St. Mary's Cemetery across the field from the old church site.

From the Archives of Catholic Archdiocese of Perth -

There has been at least one pilgrimage made to Fr. McCabe's final resting place. Fr. Moynihan was visiting the United States and wrote an article for the *Boston Pilot* on the journey. On Pentecost Sunday in 1966 two young Irish doctors (research fellows at the Mayo Clinic) Dr. Michael B. O'Sullivan, Dr. Paul O'Donovan, their wives and children, and Fr. Moynihan (Diocesan Archivist, Western Australia) set out from Rochester, Minnesota for Waseca. They visited St. Mary church and noticed there a window dedicated to Fr. McCabe's memory. They went the short distance across the road to the cemetery and had no difficulty finding the grave - a beautiful Celtic Cross for a marker. As the pilgrimage party was leaving, a car drove up. It was a Waseca County

resident who, by chance, remembered Fr. McCabe when he was the St. Mary parish priest. Fr. Moynihan stated in his article that this "was a happy ending to our little pilgrimage." The Waseca County resident who happened to be visiting St. Mary cemetery on the eve of Memorial Day was Mr. William E. Byron along with his wife and two daughters.

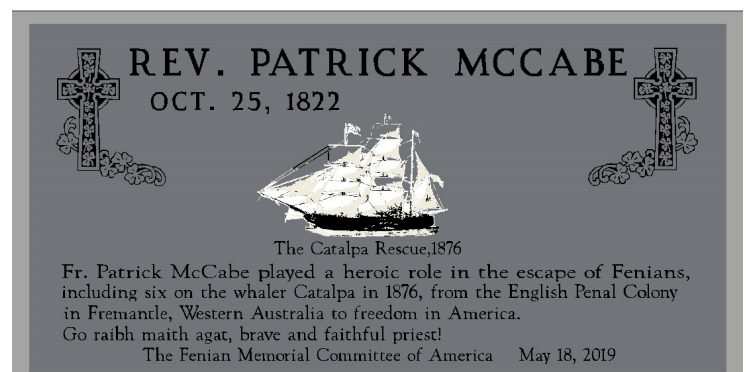
## Special Event : Saturday May 18, 2019 at WCHS and St. Mary Cemetery

The Fenian Memorial Committee of America would like to offer a long overdue "thank you" to Fr. McCabe for his sacrifice in the name of Irish freedom. The committee has commissioned Tom Miller, a Minnesota stone cutter, to create a polished granite gravestone legend to be placed at the foot of Fr. McCabe's Celtic Cross cemetery marker.

George McLaughlin and members from the Fenian Memorial Committee of America will be unveiling the memorial stone on Saturday, May 18, 2019. A benediction, commemoration and celebration of this great man will follow.

More information about this project can be found on the Fenian Memorial Committee of America website: [fenianmca@gmail.com](mailto:fenianmca@gmail.com)

*We do not have the schedule for the day's event at this time. Please check our website as the date nears.*





## Bailey-Lewer Research Library

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

### Need help interpreting your DNA data?

We invite you to make an appointment with WCHS researcher Linda Taylor for a personalized 1 hour session. This is free to members, non member's 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.



### Hey! Who's big idea and who paid for that? Dave and Melissa Dunn!

Waseca County installed two "Historic Site" signs on January 8, 2019 by The Pink Schoolhouse. They were ordered and donated by Dave Dunn, Waseca. So awesome, Dave! Thank you! Also, Dave Dunn, Dave Zika and Marty Buom are the three "angels" who painted the school its pretty pink color just in time for the September 2018, School Reunion, Ice Cream Social, Open House. Thank you so much, guys!

Thank you to all the many people who worked on the school, donated or helped make this possible in any way.

-DeeAnn and Judy

### From the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce:

"then you go two miles past the Pink School House. . ." Many of us have received directions that included this iconic Waseca County landmark. DeeAnn Britton, Judy Joecks, and countless other volunteers have worked extensively to fundraise and rehabilitate that eye catching little building; and that's why Save the Pink School House Group is the Chamber's 2018 recipient of the Community Development Award! We all got the pinkest clothes we own to help congratulate them! - Waseca Chamber

# Membership and Donations

21 September 2018 - 31 January 2019

New Members	Renewing Members			
Breck, Bob & Joette	Bartelt, Craig	Fitzsimmons, William & Sandra	Inman, Steven	Randall, Dr. Gyles & Carol
Bruesch, J. Carl	Battenfeld, Myra	Friedl, Barbara	Jirele, Susan	Reak, Bonnie
Byron, Molly	Britton, Valerie	Fuller, Becky	Johnson, Bradley	Roesler, Neil
Feser, Dale & Lanae	Buker, Barbara & Mark	Gash, Merideth	Johnson, Gregg	Rose, Allan
Holbrook, Peter	Byron, Brenda	Gilbertson, Carolyn	Joyce, Ron	Rosenthal, Gregg
Jensen, Tanya	Carlson, Brad & Colleen	Gilomen, Carollea	King, Jim and Barb	Routh, Warren & Susan
Minea, Tim	Carpenter, Michael	Grant, Linda	Korsmo-Kennon, Peggy	Rudolph, Janet
Page, Jean	Cervenka, Robert	Gruetzmacher, Bonnie	Lewer, Cindy	Ryan, Thomas
Raimann, Carol	Coyer, Gayle	Halstead, Robert	Madden, Patrick	Sheehan, Aaron
Ruedy, Jeff & Ann	Curran, Helen	Harguth, Dorothy	Mann, Dennis	Streng, Gary
Scheidnes, Jane	Cypher, Lynda	Hodges, Gregory	Milkint, Noralee	Vogler, William
Smith, Maureen	Dunn, Dave	Hoffman, Betty L.	Miller, Sarah & Bruce	Walter, Bonnie
	Eisenberger, Jane	Hogan, James	Neidt, Millie	Ward, Paul
	Elsner, Arlene	Holmquist, Harlan	Nelson, Susan E.	Welch, Eugene
	Engle, Diane	Holt, Margaret	Peterson, Melissa	Wendt, Caryn
	Ewert, Margaret	Hoversten, Patricia & William	Pettengell, LuEllen	Whiting, Gwen
	Fenelon, Kari	Hunter, Robert	Poehler, Roslyn	Wildgrube, Beverly
	Fenelon, Pauline			Willis, Keith
				Zimprich, Jon & Vanessa

Honorariums	Appropriations	Donations	Volunteers
<b>In honor of Pastor Espe</b> by Kathryn Tollefson	Blooming Grove All In One Fund \$176.00	Forrest, Sally	Beckmann, Diane
	Blooming Grove Township \$350.00	Gruetzmacher, Bonnie	Buum, Marty
	Janesville Township \$200.00	Hintz, Joanne	Dunn, Dave
<b>In honor of Linda Grant</b> by Newell Searle	New Richland Township \$1,000.00	Johnson, Ron and Janet	Fostveit, Donna
	Vivian Township \$250.00	Joyce, Ron	Groskreutz, Dale
	Wilton Township \$300.00	Neidt, Millicent	Johnson, Gregg
<b>In honor of Newell Searle</b> by Linda Grant	Waseca County \$32,500.00	Welch, Janet	Joecks, Judy
	City of Waseca \$2,250.00	Wendt, Caryn	Jones, Karl
			McCarthy, Virginia
<b>In honor of WCHS Staff</b> by Peggy Korsmo-Kennon			

## Memorials

<b>In memory of Helen Bagne</b> by Rev. Myrwood Bagne	<b>In memory of Gordon Flaten</b> by Mark and Jane Bartelt	<b>In memory of James R. Miller</b> By Juanita Miller	<b>In memory of the Sponberg Family</b> by Janalee Sponberg
<b>In memory of Joseph W. Britton</b> by Valerie Britton	<b>In memory of Helen M. (Sally) Forrest</b> by Dan and Cheryl Forrest	<b>In memory of Lorraine H. Miller</b> by Mark and Jane Bartelt by Linda Holtz by Marcia Meiners by Craig Miller	<b>In memory of Doris Ward</b> by Paul Ward
<b>In memory of Bruce Cummins</b> by Donna Fostveit by Russel & Terri Ingram	<b>In memory of Bob Gigeay</b> by Marjorie Giesen	<b>In memory of Elizabeth Ann Moen</b> by Becky Joecks	<b>In memory of Avis (Hatle) Wobschall</b> by Donna Fostveit
<b>In memory of Daniel R. Deef</b> by Robert and Romelle Deef	<b>In memory of Dorothy and Charlie Gigeay</b> by Marjorie Giesen	<b>In memory of James "Benny" Olsen</b> by Russel Ingram Family	
<b>In memory of Pat Dunn</b> by Donna Fostveit by Norma Witt	<b>In memory of Anita Gostomczik</b> by Blooming Grove Township Board	<b>In memory of Kenny Peterson</b> by D & M Body Shop by Doug Sandbeck by Mark Wolff	
<b>In memory of Mary Fette</b> by Jeff Fette by Donna Fostveit	<b>In memory of Bruce Hering</b> by daughter Sarah Nuernberg	<b>In memory of Rod Searle</b> by Sheila and Rick Morris	
<b>In memory of Marge Finley</b> by Mike Finley	<b>In memory of Leona McShane-McCarthy</b> by Donna Fostveit by Jim Tetzloff by John Tetzloff by Tom Tetzloff		

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Membership Renewal Date



**Thank you to all that contributed to our 2018 Annual Fund Drive!**

Armstrong, Wendell and Ruth	Evanson, Jeff and Kristine	Jensen, Dan	Richard, Deb
Bagne, Myrwood	Finley, Mike	Joecks, Dale and Judy	Ring, David and Jimmie
Berger, Doris	Fitzsimmons, Bill and Sandy	Joecks, Becky	Rosenthal, Jeanette
Boyce, Bruce and Takala, Sally	Forrest, Dan and Cheryl	Johnson, L. Steven	Rosenthal, Kathleen and Gene
Britton, Valerie	Frederick, Edward	Jones, Karl	Ross, Jackie
Butler, Gloria	Fruechte, Neil and Sharon	Josephes, Richard	Rudolph, Janet
Cahill, Mike	Galvin, Carroll and Grace	King, Jim and Barb	Selvik, Debbie and Bruce
Chaffin, Robert and Lois	Gauger, Barb	Korsmo-Kennon, Peggy	Sponberg, Janalee
Clemons, Kevin - Suburban Furniture	Gaytko, Bernie and Ann - First National	Lewer, Henry and Phyllis	Sutlief, JoAnn
Curry, Steve	Bank	Madel, Peter and MaryAnn	Tesch, Russ and Marie
Deef, Robert and Romelle	Giesen, Marge	Marquardt, Phil and Bonnie	Thompson, Larry - Roundbank
DenOuden, Sarah - Servicemaster of	Goehring, Pam and Larry	Matz, John	Tollefson, Kathryn
Mankato/Waseca	Gores, Marjorie	McIntire, Betty	Walter, Kevin - Ameriprise Financial
Dey, Cathy and Jim	Grant, Linda	Miller, Juanita	Wendland, Shane - Barden's Bar
Dobberstein, Deb and Gary	Harguth, Dorothy	Miller, Gene and Bonnie	West, Tom and Francie
Dressler, Paul and Carol	Harguth, Brian - The S.H.O.P.	Miller, Alvin and Donna	Wick, Bruce and Lorraine
Dunn, Dave and Melissa	Harrington, Kristi - State Bank of New	Morris, Sheila and Rick	Witt, Eugene or Fauniece
Dunn, Jane	Richland	Oelke, Neta	Wolff, Mark - D & M Body Shop
Espe, Charles and Kathryn	Hoehn, Denny and Maxine	Pope, Dr. David	Wuger, Patricia