

**Waseca  
County  
History  
Center**

# HISTORY NOTES

315 NE 2nd Avenue P.O. Box 314 Waseca MN 56093

[www.historical.waseca.mn.us](http://www.historical.waseca.mn.us)



## What's Inside:

- Rattlesnake Roundup
- Brother and Sister Pilots from Waldorf, Minnesota
- New Donations
- Summer Happenings

**Waseca County History Center**

**VINTAGE IMPLEMENT AUCTION**

**Saturday, June 17 at FARMAMERICA**  
7367 360th Ave, Waseca MN 56093

**9 a.m. Viewing — 10 a.m. Auction**

Apple Cider Press, Blacksmith Forge, Cattle Dehorner, Corn binder, 2-row horse-drawn Hayes corn planter, Clack Grass digger, 2-row horse-drawn Cultivator, Fuel Wagon, Stationary John Deere 3hp Gas Engine, T.C. Grain Separator, Grain Stick, Hay Fork, Horse-drawn Hay Mower, Hoe, seeder, 1-Row Corn Picker, Skelly gas pump, John Deere 45 Combine, John Deere 234 Corn Head, 1-bottom plow, Cattle hide baker, Horse Shaving Froe-Schmitzle bank, Lathe, Pipe cutter, McCormick Reaper, Paper-hay-straw Baler, electric organs, and much more!

Auction is held in conjunction with FarmAmerica — MN Agricultural Interpretive Center's Implement Auction.

**FARMAMERICA**

Cash or Good Checks only! All sales final!

WASECA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**USED BOOK SALE**

NO Encyclopedias  
NO VHS Tapes  
NO Bibles  
NO Textbooks

**JULY 12TH-16TH, 2023**  
**WASECA COUNTY FAIR**  
**HODGSON HALL**

[WWW.HISTORICAL.WASECA.MN.US](http://WWW.HISTORICAL.WASECA.MN.US)

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

**WCHS 2023 Board of Directors:**

Diane Beckmann, President  
Marty Buum, Vice President  
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Dale Groskreutz  
Brian Harguth (Waseca Co. Commissioner)  
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Jackie Peters  
Anna Pollock  
Carol Raimann  
Mikhail Rostislavovich  
Dave Zika

**Staff:**

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

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

Amanda Larkin, Museum Manager  
amandal@historical.waseca.mn.us

Virginia McCarthy, Researcher, Genealogy  
research@historical.waseca.mn.us

**Museum Spring-Summer Hours**

Open Tuesdays-Fridays, 9-5 p.m.

**Bailey-Lewer Library**

Open for research Tuesdays and Fridays, 9-5

**Traveling?**  
**Please call ahead.**  
**507-835-7700**

**WCHS is a recipient of**

**Thrivent Financial Choice Dollars Program**

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**From the Executive Director**

Joan Mooney

Warmest greetings!

Hope this message finds everyone well and ready for warm weather and sunshine!

I would like to address the deaccessioning of agricultural artifacts currently underway at WCHS.

One of our biggest challenges is the increasing number of artifacts coming into the WCHS collection and our limited space to care for and display the artifacts. To date, WCHS stores, protects and has available for display 58,749 artifacts, including photographs. The collection represents Waseca County history from 1855 to the present. Over the years, staff and WCHS Board Committees have had to reevaluate items within this collection to make sure the items represent Waseca County. The condition of the artifact is also considered in this process. The process is necessary as our history keeps coming in but our square footage remains the

**De-ac-ces-sion** : officially remove (an item) from the listed holdings of a collection. **Deaccessioning** means the formal process used to permanently remove an artifact owned by the entity, usually through sale or exchange or any other transaction by which title of the outgoing artifact is transferred from the entity to an individual, institution, agency, gallery, vendor or dealer. Under certain conditions, it may also include disposal by internal destruction.

same. The process we follow is called **deaccessioning**.

For many years, WCHS has had many large agricultural implements on loan to Farmamerica. Previously, some of these items were stored at Hodgson Hall, others in a small storage shed. A decision was made that these items should be shared with Farmamerica year round rather than for one week during the Waseca County Fair when Hodgson Hall is open to the public.

Farmamerica has their own collection of agricultural implements as well as the WCHS Collection on loan.

Currently, the buildings at Farmamerica used to display and store the collections are in need of repairs. The items have to be removed from these buildings so work can commence. Both Farmamerica and WCHS are challenged with limited space for display and storage of these items. Truth be told, there is not enough room to house and display both collections at Farmamerica.

WCHS has decided it is time to let some of the WCHS items go. We didn't have a place for them 20 years ago, and we don't have it now. The time has come to find new homes for some of these items.

The deaccessioning process follows WCHS policy. We have made our best attempt to return the items to donor families and rehome items to like-minded institutions, such as Farmamerica, so the story can continue to be told. The remaining items will be sold at a public auction on **Saturday June 17th at Farmamerica**.

The WCHS Collection at Hodgson Hall as well as the museum collection and historic photographs still reflects the early agricultural history of Waseca County .

We continue to accommodate all of Waseca County history, past, present and future to the best of our abilities. This has been a daunting process and has been conducted in keeping with WCHS policy and the American Association for State and Local History Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations.

See the WCHS website for more information regarding the sale.

Joan

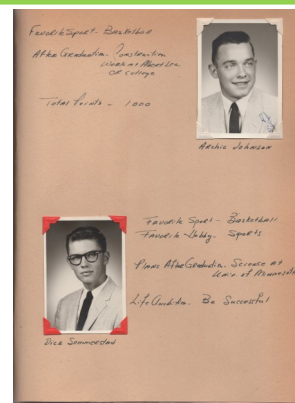


# Share Your Skills

Do you know how valuable your skills can be to WCHS? Do you know you can be credited for donating your time? In-kind labor can be assigned a cash value and considered a donation. Here is a list of volunteer opportunities that would greatly assist staff and enhance our efforts to preserve your history. If you would like to consider any of these opportunities please give us a call. (507) 835-7700

- Website Optimization and Enhancement: 5 hrs. per month.  
Work with staff to add content and explore website function and capabilities.
- Maintenance: As needed, painting, exterior ramp staining, weed whacking here and there, Hodgson Hall prep.
- Bailey-Lewer House Garden maintenance: As needed, assist in bed prep and planting, watering and weeding.
- Hofmann Apiaries Pollinator Gardens: As needed, Assist in bed prep and planting, watering and weeding.

## New Donations



We recently received a large donation of scrapbooks and scorebooks documenting the life and career of local coach Manny Beckmann. Mr. Beckmann was a coach at Waseca High School for 37 years. In 1975, he was voted Minnesota Basketball Coach of the Year when the Bluejays were 27-1, entering the state basketball tournament with a perfect 25-0 mark. In 1969, the Bluejays were ranked number one in the state during the entire season back when all schools were in just one class. Manny is a member of the of the Minnesota High School Hall of Fame, the Minnesota Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame and the Mankato State University Hall of Fame.

## STAFF

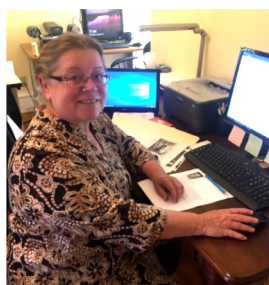
**Pauline Fenelon**

Artifact & Library Curator



**Jan Hunter**

Research & Genealogy



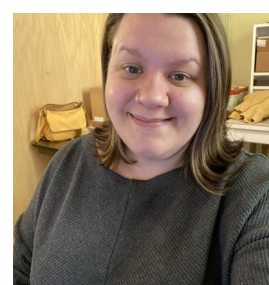
**Virginia McCarthy**

Research & Genealogy



**Amanda Larkin**

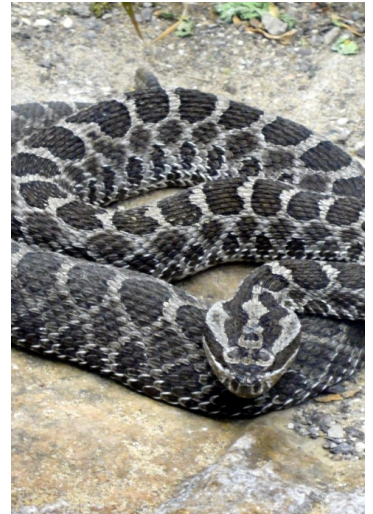
Museum Manager



# Rattlesnake Roundup

When spring is in the air, people can't help but spend more time outside. We often find ourselves working in the garden, going on hikes, or just relaxing in the sun. Luckily, we don't usually have to worry about any poisonous insects and reptiles in southern Minnesota. However, did you know we do have rattlesnakes in state and there use to be quite a large population of them here in Waseca county? These days, the rattlesnakes are mostly sited in the eastern part of the state but that wasn't always the case.

The majority of snakes in Minnesota are harmless. There are 17 different snake species, and only two of them are venomous. They are the timber rattlesnake and the eastern massasauga. The timber rattlesnake is a large snake, averaging 2 ½ - 4 ft. in length. It has a wide, triangular-shaped head, a narrow neck, a barred body pattern, and a gray to tan rattle with 1 to over 13 segments. The background color of their bodies varies from gray to yellow to dark brown, but their tail is always solid black. While the eastern massasauga also has a gray tan rattle, it is a smaller snake, averaging 1 ½-2 ½ ft. and lacks the banded body pattern of the timber rattlesnake.



Eastern Massasauga rattlesnake



Rattlesnake Roundup circa 1920s

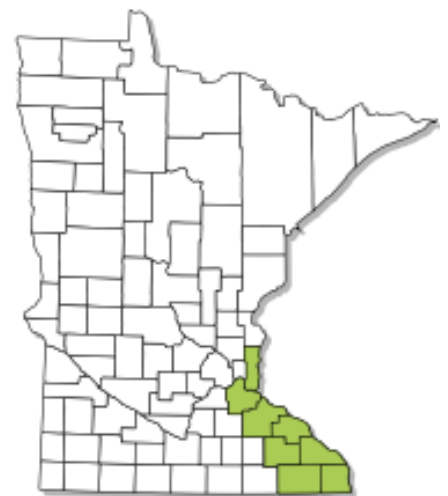
Even though rattlesnakes aren't much of a worry in Waseca County now, in the late 1800s there were a significant amount of them. We have multiple newspaper articles from the late 1800s on the matter. For example, On August 13, 1887 the *Janesville Argus* published an article stating "C.H. Barrett informs us that fifty or sixty rattlesnakes have been killed in the vicinity of his residence during the summer." On August 21, 1888 the *Argus* published another article stating "Recently F. Kringle, while shocking oats in Beauford, was bitten in the leg by a rattle snake. His leg swelled badly, but the poison was counteracted and his life saved by liberal draughts of



Timber rattlesnake

whiskey." People weren't the only ones that needed to worry about the rattlesnake population. Previously mentioned Mr. Barrett also lost a chicken to a bite and in 1888 Mr. Fanning's horse was bitten.

Seeing any snake is often a startling experience. However, they are more scared of you than you are of them. Snakes are naturally secretive and not aggressive, but people's fear of them has led to a massive decline in population over the years. This has led to both the timber and eastern massasauga to be given protective status. This means it is illegal to kill or handle one unless you have a permit from the DNR. The eastern massasauga has actually been classified as endangered since 1996 because surveyors in the 1990s were unable to locate it. The timber rattlesnake is still seen in southeastern Minnesota and in 1909 the state created a bounty that led to a large decrease in population. Cal R. Fleming of Winona State University wrote, "From 1935 to 1963, 60,179 rattlesnakes were bountied at a cost of \$45,403.50 to Houston County." In 1984, the timber rattlesnake was designated a special concern species, and in 1989 the bounty was repealed. Because of declining populations, the timber rattlesnake was reclassified as threatened in 1996 and to this day is still listed as such.



Map of Minnesota timber rattlesnake known locations. Circa 2023 (n.d.). *Crotalus horridus* Linnaeus, 1758. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/>

## Brother and Sister Pilots from Waldorf, Minnesota

The Blashack name has been well known in the Waldorf area since 1956 when Joe Blashack was hired as the Waldorf Creamery Manager and moved there with his wife, Dorothy and their family from Bertha, Minnesota. The Blashacks raised a family of ten children, most of whom worked alongside their father in the Plum Valley Creamery.



One of the sons, Michael, who was born in 1952, graduated from Waldorf-Pemberton High School, and continued his education at Mankato State College. While there, he entered the Marine Corps Officer program and was later commissioned a Marine Corps Officer. He began Naval Flight Training at Pensacola Naval Air Station. Later, he was awarded his flight wings and proceeded on to North Carolina for A-6 Intruder training. Michael was also

deployed to Japan for a time and subsequently to South Korea and the Philippines.

Michael Blashack stayed in the Marine Corps for six years before rejoining civilian life and returning to Minnesota. He attended trade school at the Alexandria Vocational Technical Institute where he graduated in 1983. From there, he became part of an English Teaching Business Enterprise in Japan and lived there for 15 years. Today, he lives and teaches Construction Technology in a California High School.

Joe and Dorothy's daughter, Catherine Blashack graduated from Waldorf-Pemberton High School in 1974 and went on to attend the College of St. Benedict

where she participated in the Army's Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC). During the summer, she went to the Army's ROTC Summer Camp, earned a Recondo Badge and following that went to the Army's Airborne Training Course at Fort Benning to earn Parachutist Badge in 1977, the first year women cadets/officers could attend the Airborne Training Course. After earning her bachelor's degree in Theater and with a minor Textiles, Catherine was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant (LT) in the United States Army at St. John's University.



In 1988 Catherine went on active duty and attended the US Army Transportation Office Basic Course, and in 1979, she was trained at the Army's Helicopter Flight School in Alabama. At this point in her career and in her brother Michael's career, they became the first brother and



sister pilots in sister services (Marine Corps and Army). In 1982, she received Blackhawk (UH-60) transition training, and at Giebelstadt Army Airfield in Germany, she was the first woman helicopter pilot to be stationed there.

Lieutenant Colonel Catherine Blashack retired from the Army in 2001 and has continued to put her education and training to good use in several civilian jobs. She now lives in Texas where she is using her skills in graphic arts by participating in the painting of 16 murals in Copperas Cove and eight panels on the history of Killeen Base, Camp Hood and Fort Hood that are on display at the Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport.

## Second Quarter Contributions: March 25th, 2023 – May 31st, 2023

### Renewing Members

Androli, Jessica  
Bagne, Myrwood  
Baker, Dale  
Bartelt, Mark and Jane  
Bliven, Mark  
Bluhm, Joan  
Boyce, Bruce  
Britton, DeeAnn  
Buland, Eric  
Buum, Marty and Karen  
Byron, Brenda  
Carlson, Gladys  
Castor, Patrick  
Durban, Silvan  
Eichorst, Fred  
Elsner, Arlene  
Fitzsimmons, William  
Gauger, Barbara  
Gruetzmacher, Bonnie  
Halgren, Dawn  
Halstead, Robert  
Harguth, Dorothy  
Hintz, Joanne  
Hoehn, DuWayne and Barbara  
Kunst, Dave  
Kurkowski, Thomas and Cheryl  
Laas, Julia  
Lewer, Cindy  
Linnihan, Julie  
Linnihan, Michael  
Maas, Anita  
Madden, Patrick and Sharon  
Mann, Dennis  
McMorris, Kim  
Metzdorff, Thomas and Kristin  
Peters, David  
Poehler, Roslyn  
Rathmann, Duane and Cheryl  
Ring, David  
Roessler, Karen  
Rogers, Clinton  
Samudio, Ken and Noeline  
Sheehan, Aaron  
Spies, Lynferd  
Takala, Sally  
Tesch, Russell and Marie  
Teskey, John  
Velett, Laurie  
Wabner, Dave and Berni  
Waggoner, Linda  
Walther, Dianne

### Sustaining Members

Gerdes, Douglas  
Goehring, Pam and Larry  
Hoehn, Denny and Maxine  
Peters, Amy and Maxine  
Strain, Reid  
Suek, Peter and Teresa  
Tostenson, Richard

### New Members

Adelmann, Marianne  
Barker, Angela  
Dougall, Jan  
Hanel, Rachel  
Helge, Julian  
Johnson, Michelle  
McQuillan Hofmann, Kathleen  
Newton, Jon  
Pederson, Lee  
Peters, Jon and Shelly  
Phelps, Jamie  
Rock, Lori  
Tostenson, Hans Elling

### New Lifetime Members

Pribble, John and Terri

### Appropriations

Alton Township  
Freedom Township  
Byron Township

### Donations

Carlson, Gladys  
Durban, Silvan  
Fette, Jeff  
Fitzsimmons, William  
Gores, Marjorie  
Haslip, Kari  
Hovelsrud, Neil and Susan  
Nelson, John  
Wynnemer, James

### Memorials/Honorariums

In memory of Lowell Root  
by Brenda Byron

In memory of Don and Margaret  
Wynnemer by Russell and Marie Tesch

In memory of Loy Spies  
by Janette Larson

In memory of Joseph McCarthy  
by Janette Larson

In memory of James R. Miller  
by Juanita Miller

In memory of Roger Kozan  
by Romelle Deef

In memory of Don Goltz  
by DeeAnn Britton

In memory of Cheri Clow  
by DeeAnn Britton

In memory of Penny Peters  
by Jon Peters

In memory of Jan Wadd  
by Donna Fostveit

In memory of Gert Schubbe  
by Nancy Tollefson

In memory of Keith Smith  
by Nancy Tollefson

In memory of Don Wynnemer  
by Lucille Youngberg

In memory of Don Wynnemer  
by Earl and Kathryn Stockman

In memory of Don Wynnemer  
by Pam and Dennis Born

In memory of Nathan Selby  
by Linda Grant

**159th ANNUAL MEETING & FAMILY PICNIC**  
OF THE  
**WASECA COUNTY HORSE THIEF DETECTIVES**


**TUESDAY, JULY 4, 2023**  
**12:00 NOON**  
NORTHEAST PARK, WASECA, MINN.  
\* ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD AT 1:00 P.M. \*

**FAMILY FUN!** Bring the whole family to the potluck picnic at noon. Bring a dish to pass, plates, utensils and beverages. Old fashioned yard games for all ages to follow the annual meeting.

**GET INVOLVED!** WE ARE LOOKING FOR OFFICERS AND CEREMONIAL RIDERS TO SERVE THE WCHTD. PLAN TO ATTEND THE EVENT TO LEARN MORE.

HORSE THIEVES ARE NOT WELCOMED IN THIS TERRITORY. SINCE 1864, NOT A SINGLE HORSE OF A MEMBER HAS BEEN STOLEN AND NOT RECOVERED.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL SCOTT AT 507-995-9832, OR EMAIL SCOTT.W.ROEMHILD@GMAIL.COM



# HAPPENINGS!

**June: Current Exhibit at the WCHS Museum: 1970s, a Retrospect**

**Implement Auction - June 17**

**July: WCHTD Annual Meeting - July 4**

**Waseca County Fair - July 12-16**

**Waseca Garden Tour - July 22**

**August: Hofmann Apiaries Open House**  
**Saturday August 19**

**Sept:**

**Oct: Woodville Cemetery Walk**  
**Sunday October 1**

*Bailey House Historic Gardens*  
*Open June through September*  
*View Shady Oaks Garden from ramp*  
*2nd Avenue and 4th Street NE Waseca.*

WASECA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**USED BOOK SALE**

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**JULY 12TH-16TH, 2023**  
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**HODGSON HALL**

WWW.HISTORICAL.WASECA.MN.US  
CALL TO SCHEDULE A DROP OFF  
TIME: 835-7700



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Auction is held in conjunction with Farmamerica —MN Agricultural Interpretive Center's implement auction.



**1970s EXHIBIT**

Come visit us to feel the nostalgia of the 70s.

Waseca County Historical Society  
345 2ND AVE. S.E. Waseca, MN 56093  
PHONE: 835.7700

**Cash or Good Checks only! All sales final!**



**Waseca County Historical Society**

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**PERMIT 41**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Membership Renewal Date

