



Waseca County Historical Society
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Waseca, MN 56093

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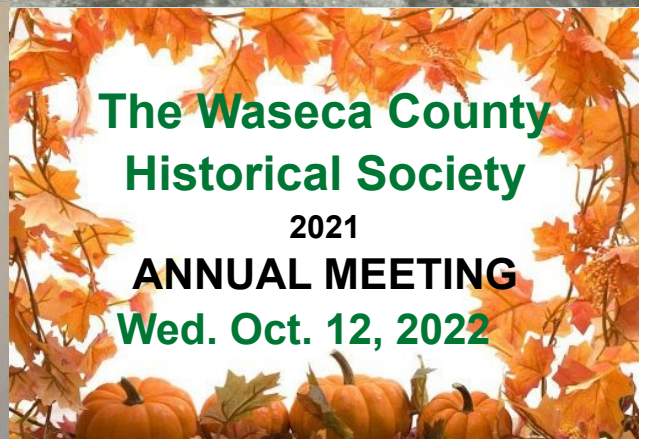
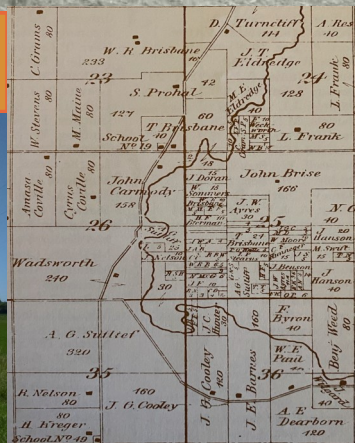
315 NE 2nd Avenue P.O. Box 314 Waseca MN 56093

www.historical.waseca.mn.us



What's Inside:

HOUND STREET
New Richland,
Byron Wilton
and Otisco



History Notes is a publication of the Waseca County Historical Society ©2022
P.O. Box 314, Waseca, MN 56093
315 Second Avenue N.E., 507-835-7700
www.historical.waseca.mn.us

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Museum

Open Tuesdays-Fridays, 9-5

Bailey-Lewer Library

Open for research Tuesdays and Fridays, 9-5

Traveling?
Please call ahead.
507-835-7700

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From the Executive Director

Joan Mooney

Dear Members,

The arrival of the Autumnal Equinox is upon us. The sun will cross the equator and our days are already growing shorter. According to the Farmer's Almanac, the autumnal equinox will occur on Thursday, September 22 at 8:03 p.m. CDT. The day and night will be of equal length.



Letting go of summer has always been difficult for me. Our summer gardens surrender to cooler temps and darker days. The vast and vibrant colors fade. It seems I never quite get enough before it's time to let go. Thank you to the Waseca Area Garden Club for hosting the Annual Garden Tour at the Bailey-Lewer House Historical Gardens. The weather was not good, but the rain held off for a few hours to give folks a chance to tour some, if not all of the gardens. The Bailey House Gardens are open to the public as long as weather and daylight permits.

Busy summer season for WCHS. Thanks to all who volunteered to help at Hodgson Hall. We had 5,078 people come through the doors of Hodgson Hall. I think Dale Groskreutz visited with at least 5,000 curious admirers as they took in his replicated model of his grandfather's barn. Thank you Dale for sharing your talent and memories with all of us. Nice turnout for Waldorf Days and the All School Reunion. The parade was well attended. Thanks to Mallory and Melana Groskreutz for running the candy!

Hofmann Apiaries Update

Phase 2 Restoration will be completed this fall! We will begin schedule group tours and events Spring 2023. Call today if you are interested in bringing your class or group out for a visit. 507 835-7700.

WCHS 2021 ANNUAL MEETING
Wednesday, October 12, 2022

BURGER NITE AT THE WILLOWS
NEW RICHLAND, MN
SOCIAL HOUR | 5:30 - 6 P.M.
BUSINESS MEETING | 6 P.M.
DINNER | 6:30 P.M.
PREPAID RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
YOUR CHOICE OF ENTRÉE:

Chicken Cordon Blue Sandwich or Burger Special-choose from MANY toppings. Both come with sides of coleslaw, tots, french fries or sweet potato fries, non-alcoholic beverages and pumpkin pie!

Tickets: \$20 MUST BE PREPAID to WCHS by Fri. Oct. 7
Call in your reservation today! 835-7700



A Beautiful Donation

Thank you to the Gardner family for the recent donation of this lovely 1934 wedding gown worn by Mary Gayle Wolfe when she was married to Harvey Gardner in St. Paul. A Waseca newspaper of the era described it in vivid detail as being a French Vionnet model of olive green transparent velvet made with a train and a long sleeved bolero jacket edged in Kolinsky (sable); on her head she wore a Talbot off-the-face hat of shadowy tulle in brown. A portrait of the bride was also part of the donation. Attorney and Mrs. Gardner made their home in Janesville.



Welcome Grace!

This year we are pairing with the high school to have a student spend time with us doing independent study. She will be learning about what goes on behind the scenes at the museum. More specifically, she will be learning from Pauline what a curator's job entails. We are looking forward to what this year will bring!

Hello! My name is Grace Lapidés, and I am a senior at Waseca Junior/Senior High School. I will be working with the Historical Society all year as part of an independent study course. We have a wonderful community here, and I'm so excited to learn more about our very own history as well as what the staff members here do on a daily basis. I'm thrilled to have been given this opportunity, and I hope to get more young people like me excited about history!

STAFF

Pauline Fenelon

Artifact & Library Curator



Jan Hunter

Research & Genealogy



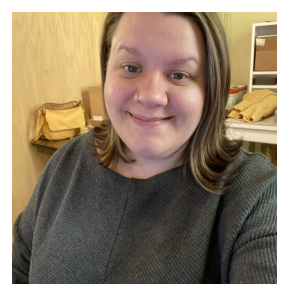
Virginia McCarthy

Research & Genealogy



Amanda Larkin

Museum Manager



Neighborhoods:

HOUND STREET revisited



What defines a neighborhood? A group of people and houses living in close proximity to one another? A specific vicinity with defining borders? A cluster of family homes surrounding an original homestead?

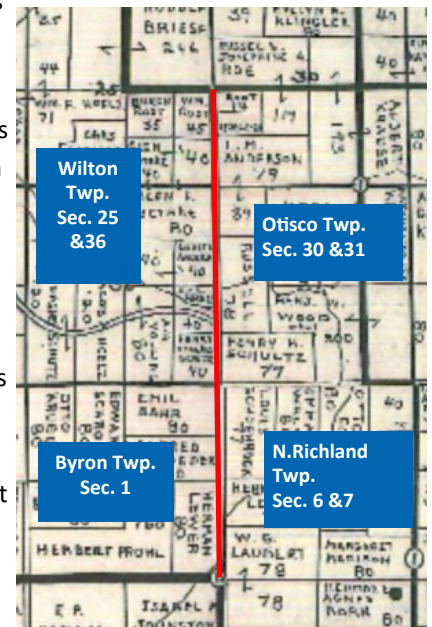
Neighborhoods collectively form districts, towns and cities. Anyone growing up in a neighborhood identifies with that particular defined area. Architectural styles, schools and churches, geographic features can be defining characteristics of a neighborhood. Once bound together, neighborhoods stand the test of time, even if pieces are lost the boundaries remain intact.

Nestled along a stretch of 120th Street is one such neighborhood called Hound Street. Hound Street runs north and south along the township road between New Richland and Byron Townships on the south end and Wilton and Otisco Townships to the north.

Noted in the *Waseca Radical*, September 16, 1896 *Hounds Street News* column were mentions of a disappointing rainfall amount, the opening of the road from Will Root's corner to the Brisbane's bridge. E.M Kellogg of Gilmore City, Iowa was on the street talking dog. Kellogg sold his Russian Wolfhound to the Miner boy for a good price. This dog weighs 135 lbs. The Hound Street boys and the Gilmore City, Iowa boys announced the organization of the Southern Minnesota Coursing Club. Will Root was appointed secretary.

Wikipedia describes hare coursing as "the pursuit of hares with greyhounds and other sighthounds, which chase the hare by sight, not scent." The Festival of Hunting website states "Coursing is the oldest of all field sports, with records going back to 4000BC." Prior to Queen Elizabeth I reign, coursing was the sport of royalty and no one without ranking could own a greyhound.

The early Hound Street coursing activities involved greyhounds. On April 28 and 29, 1898 the Great Greyhound Race was held. The location was not made clear other than "at this place" but the races were most likely held at the fairgrounds. Four hundred people attended. Dogs came from Minneapolis, Redwood Falls, Mankato, Owatonna, Faribault and Gilmore City, Iowa. The hares were brought in from the plains of Kansas. The Hound Street winners were C.E. Root's Scamper, F. Winnegars's Robert F. and Larkin and W.L. Root's Kid McCoy. The next notable mention of the sport appears in the *Waseca Radical*, December 20, 1899. It seems the hare has been replaced with fox. Ed Weed found his greyhound pup 17 miles up the LeSueur River. He was happy to recover the pup as he has the makings of a fast dog.



Charles Stearns entered the greyhound business, purchasing Lucille from A.L. Weston of Colorado Springs, formerly owned by C.E. Root and considered to be of great value. C.E. and James Root and Ed Kellogg seemed to have experienced a good return on their investments as well.

Edwin Sherman Weed and son Benjamin Kellogg Weed with one of their dogs from Hound Street; Weed house in background. Edwin Sherman Weed born 1859 died 10 February 1928. Benjamin Kellogg Weed born 21 September 1889 died 2 November 1974. Benjamin Kellogg Weed married Ella A. Verplank 29 May 1912. Edwin raised dogs on their farm just outside of New Richland, the street they lived on became known as Hound Street.



The timeline on the greyhound racing and Hound Street coursing activities remains unclear but hounds and hunting remained intact in the neighborhood activities on Hound Street for years to come.

An article appearing in the *Waseca County News*, July 24, 1984, *Hound Street, Dogs and Foxes Led to the Name*, columnist Margie Zebell interviews Hound Street resident Esther Root.

Esther Gehring and Burch Root were united in marriage on June 27, 1920. That is when she came to the neighborhood. Esther recalls the stories of the greyhound days, before her time. Esther and Burch raised hound dogs. Esther states they were not ordinary hounds, "They didn't chase cattle, they chased fox." The hunts began near their homes on Hound Street and commenced along LeSueur River or wherever the fox decided to go. The pelts were sold but the "hunt" was equally valued by the Hound Street hunters.

continued



Hound Street continued

The last *Hound Street News* column appears in the *New Richland Star* on October 23, 1952. No farewells or fanfare, it just goes away. Other neighborhoods like *News from Pickle Street* disappear before that, but for the most part, the *New Richland Star* did a good job keeping tabs on the neighbors. *Byron Budget*, *News from Vivian*, *East Otisco*, *Matawan*, *Waldorf, S.E. New Richland*, *Broadway* and *St. Olaf Lake* held on to the column banners as long as the news was called in.

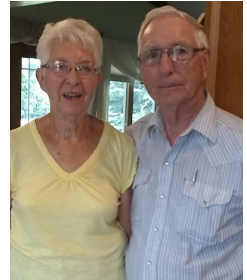
Hounds Street Revisited

In doing this story we thought it was important to take a current inventory of the neighborhood. It had been quite sometime since we last took a look.

Still in place are the Hound Street signs. Thanks to Esther and Burch's son Buck Root there are signs marking the beginning and the end of Hound Street's physical boundaries. Traveling south to north, I came upon some current residents of the Hound Street neighborhood.



On the Byron Township side of the road, just across Boot Creek, I stumbled upon St. Isidore Farm. Isidore Farm was previously the Emil Bahr farmstead pictured on the cover. In 1879 the land was owned by J.L. Penfield in Section 1 of Byron Township. Isidore Farm was established in 2020 by Tim Murray, CEO of St. Paul based Trinity Sober Homes. It is a sober house retreat for people in recovery. We first met Tim when he visited WCHS and told us of his recent purchase. Quietly nestled in the wooded five acre homestead, Tim has transformed the original farmhouse into a beautifully restored home using repurposed materials from old churches and his personal acquisitions. A wonderful example of structure re-use vs demolition.



Darlene and Curt Russell



St. Isidore Spiritual Gardens in the works

Further north after crossing the LeSueur River on the Otisco side of the road is the J.H. Russell farm, originally owned by B.F. Weed, one of Waseca County's earliest settlers, then John Sieburger before J.H. Russell acquired the property. The farm is currently owned and operated by son Curt and his wife Darlene Russell. The original house no longer stands. The Russell's home was built in 1975. Curt was raised on Hound Street and worked the family farm with his father. Darlene Rehman became a resident of Hound Street when she married Curt Russell in 1964.

Together they raised 2 sons, one who lives just down to the south on Hound Street. His parents tell me he restored his barn beautifully and

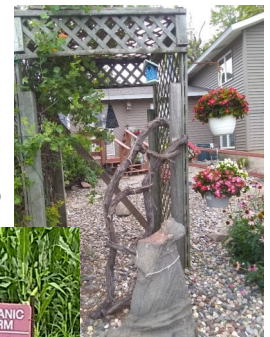


John Sieburger Farm, ca. 1930
J.H Russell, current owners
Curtis and Darlene Russell

he can fix anything! As far as Hound Street recollections, Curtis was born there and never gave it much thought. He does remember his parents getting a weekly call from the *New Richland Star* asking if there were visitors or other noteworthy news bits to be added to the Hounds Street column.

Sixteen years ago they lost their daughter-in-law to cancer. It was this loss that inspired the Russells to convert the farm practices from traditional farming to organic farming. It took a period of years to make the transition. For over a decade they have been operating as a certified organic farm.

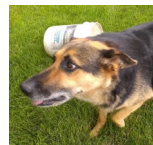
It was a pleasure to meet the Russells. Both Curt and Darlene have tapped their inner artist selves and it is apparent when I saw the beautiful dining room table crafted by Curt and his son. Darlene has incorporated her creativity into her beautiful gardens. Trellising, found objects and other interesting ornaments can be found nestled within the many varieties of perennials and annuals.



Garden Art by Darlene Russell



In closing, I must mention, there are still a few hounds on Hound Street. I came across two coming out of the ditch on the north end. A very muddy retriever and his heeler friend. They were very happy. And of course Roxy Russell. Roxy is not a racer or a chaser. She is content with her bucket (favorite toy) and her life with Curt and Darlene on what we still know as Hound Street.



Thank you to Roger Bahr for the cover photo and contact information for this story.

Oh what a summer it's been!

It's hard to believe another summer has already passed and kids are back in school. However, we had a great summer full of activities. This year's fair was especially fun and had nice weather. Typically we spend a lot of time deciding on what to display at the fair, but this year it was surprisingly easy! We have had multiple donations of replicas in the last couple of years and our board member Dale Groskreutz has been showing us the progress of his own, so it seemed like the perfect idea. Here is a little background information about both we had on display.

The King Melody Inn was a restaurant and night club located on the north side of Clear Lake in the 1950s through 1985 when it burned down. Margaret and M. Carson owned it in the 1950s and 1960s. Mr. Carson built this model replica of the King Melody as a playhouse for his daughter Jean Carson and subsequent Carson daughters and granddaughters.

Dale's barn drew a lot of attention and boy did it deserve it. Dale has spent more than 300 hours on this replica making sure it is 1/16th to scale and even adding extra buildings. The attention to detail is phenomenal on its own, but even more so because all of this is done from Dale's memory.



Third Quarter Contributions: June 16th, 2022 – September 8th, 2022

Renewing Members

Aamot, Chris
Bagne, Myrwood
Bathke, Dr. Jon
Bathke, Patricia
Carlson, Gladys
Clemons, Mary
Connor, Matt
Coyer, Gale
Groskreutz, Dale and Lynn
Hallman, John
Hovelsrud, Susan
Jackson, Carol
Kugath, LeAnn
Larson, Janette
McColley, Dallas and Marsha
Moyer, Brenda and Greg
Olson, Sally
Rosenthal, Kathleen and Gene
Rudolph, Janet
Tesch, Marty
Tlougan, Les and Karen
Tollefson, Kathryn
Twisselman, Alan
Whitney, Robin
Wildgrube, Beverly
Witt, Eugene and Fauniece
Yamazaki, Stella
Young, Brook-Ann
Zwach, Donald and Fran

Sustaining Members

Wheelock, Greg and Donnette

New Members

Byron, Anne
Gottschalk, Don
Hokanson, Eric
Miller, Gary
Nielson, Nancy
Pettengell, LuEllen
Reese, Sherrie
Sutton, Tracy
Thompson, Brian

Appropriations

Janesville Township

Donations

Minnesota Valley Federal
Credit Union
Beckmann, Diane
Carlson, Gladys
Tlougan, Les and Karen

Volunteers

Moe, Diane
Kohler, Daniel
Kohler, Sara
Swenson, Dan

Memorials/Honorariums

In memory of Margaurette (Sutter)
Fairfield

By Bob and Janette Larson

In memory of Judy Greeney

By Donna Fostveit

In memory of Michael Hecht

By Donna Fostveit

In memory of Bob & Lois Chaffin

By Russell and Marie Tesch

In memory of Bob & Lois Chaffin

By Sheila Morris

In memory of Dorothy Buker

By Joanne Hintz

In memory of Duane Buker

By Joanne Hintz

In memory of John Bernard

Slattery

By Donna Fostveit

In memory of Margaret Wynnemer

By Sheila Morris

In memory of Margaret Wynnemer

By Dave Dunn