



Waseca County Historical Society

315 2nd Avenue N.E. | P.O. Box 314

Waseca, MN 56093

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Waseca
County
History
Center

History Notes

www.historical.waseca.mn.us

315 NE 2nd Avenue Waseca MN 56093

507.835.7700



What's Inside:

- A Little Bit of Waldorf History
- A Tribute to Shady Oaks Nursery

On the Cover:

Clarence Wolters, Dave and Bill Hoversten, Threshing Scene. 1953. Three generations in the field; Bill Hoversten is sitting behind the wheel of the tractor, far left; his dad David Hoversten, standing on a threshing rig, center; and Clarence Wolter, Bill's grandfather, is standing in wheat field, far right. *From the WCHS Collection*



Don't Miss! The
**WCHS ANNUAL
MEETING and
Dinner**
October 20th

**Paid Reservations must be in by
Mon. Oct. 11. Call Today! 835-7700**

History Notes is a publication of the Waseca County Historical Society ©2021
P.O. Box 314, Waseca, MN 56093
315 Second Avenue N.E., 507-835-7700
www.historical.waseca.mn.us

WCHS 2021 Board of Directors:

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Museum

Open Tuesdays-Fridays, 9-5
Thursday 9:00-4:30 p.m.

Bailey-Lewer Library Research

Open for research Tuesdays and Fridays, 9-5

**Traveling?
Please call ahead.**



Hofmann Apiaries Phase I Restoration Was funded in part by the Waseca Area Foundation Community Grants and Funds provided by the State of Minnesota from the Arts and Cultural Heritage fund through the Minnesota Historical Society.

Society.

From the Executive Director



Summer's End Joan Mooney

Dear Members,
Another season is winding down. It was wonderful to see everyone who came through Hodgson Hall during the Waseca County Fair. Lots of happy faces. Thank you to our volunteers for making all of our visitors feel welcome.

WCHS and the Waseca Art Center teamed up to bring LakeFest 2021 to all who came to celebrate the 4th of July in Clear Lake Park. Another great opportunity to see folks and share an afternoon of music followed by fireworks. Thank you to the Waseca Area Foundation, Waseca Area Visitor and Tourism Board for LakeFest support and Spire Credit Union for the fireworks.

Hofmann Apiaries Update

We have received quite a bit of attention in recent weeks. We were featured on WCCO's *Finding MN* series thanks to Donna Fostveit who contacted the station. Soon after we were featured in the *Waseca County News* and the *Mankato Free Press*.

The project received Phase II funding from the Environmental bill passed in the House Special Session held in June of this year. Thanks to Senator Julie Rosen and Representative John Petersburg for recognizing the worth of the project.

Work will begin next summer.

WCHS Board of Directors took to the streets for the annual Marching Classic parade on Saturday September 18. Thank you to Marty and Karen Buum for the use of their classic 1957 Chrysler Saratoga and Oscar Marquez for joining us with his 1969 Ford Camper Special. Also thank you to our WCHS Board members Diane Beckmann, Trevor Kanewischer and Jackie Peters for arrangements and assistance.

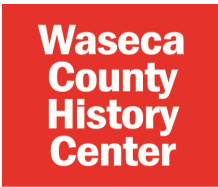
And Members:

Don't forget to sign up for the WCHS Annual Meeting and Dinner.

October 20, Turkey Dinner \$18.

Call and sign up today! 835-7700

Thanks everyone!
Joan



Nice visit with the Waseca Area Garden Club in June.



Third Quarter Contributions: June 24th, 2021 – September 16th, 2021

Renewing Members

Aamot, Chris
Amsrud, Mary
Bluhm, Joan
Bentley, Bethel
Boje, Cory
Born, Larry and Linda
Byron, John
Byron, Paul
Castor, Patrick
Cawley, Jerry
Connor, Matt
Coyer, Gayle
Cunningham, Sheila
Dey, James and Cathy
Dyngeland, Kari
Fell, June
Hallman, John
Harguth, Char
Hodges, Gregory
Hunter, Jan
Jackson, Carol
Kugath, LeAnn
Kunst, Dave
Lechner, Karen
Madden, Patrick
McColley, Dallas and Marsha
Miller, Andy and Kathy
Miller, Jean
Moyer, Brenda and Greg
Nicolin, Jay and Nancy
Rudolph, Janet
Samudio, Ken

Renewing Members

Swanson, Jeanette
Wegner, Geraldine
West, Tom and Francie
Witt, Eugene and Fauniece
Wolff, Dennis and Beth Ann

New Members

Abraham, Arlene
Brown, Laurie
Clemons, Mary
Engelstad, Jessica
Moenck, Ryan
Rustad, Eric
Twiss-Brooks, Andrea

New/Renewing Sustainer Members

Kanewischer, Trevor
Murphy, Mike
Tlougan, Les and Karen

New Lifetime Members

Miller, Gene and Bonnie
Schultz, Kent

Appropriations

City of Waseca

Donations

Bathke, Patricia
Born, Linda and Larry
Cawley, Jerry
Dey, James and Cathy
West, Tom and Francie
Wolff, Dennis and Beth Ann

Memorials and Honorariums

In memory of Joyce Brown
By Nancy Nelson-Deppe
In memory of Clarisse "Chris" Fretham
By Donna Fostveit
In memory of Irene Jeddelloh
By Jane Coleman and Joel Henderson
In memory of Don Kelly
By Richard Josephes
In memory of Brenda Larson
By Nancy Nelson-Deppe
In memory of Brenda Larson
By Donna Fostveit
In memory of Jerry McLoone
By Richard Josephes
In memory of JoAnn Larson Root
By Donna Fostveit
In memory of Jean Sutter
By Robert and Jane Larson
In memory of Sean Forest
By Robert and Jane Larson
In memory of Jane Sutter
By Robert and Jane Larson

Volunteers

Beckmann, Diane
Buum, Marty and Karen
Fostveit, Donna
Kanewischer, Trevor
Marquez, Oscar
Peters, Jackie
Zika, Dave

A Note of Interest:

Did you know that Anna Stoltz Grapp of Janesville was one of the first woman embalmers in the state of Minnesota? Anna and her husband William managed the Grapp Furniture and Funeral business in Janesville from 1898 until it was sold to Thomas Foley a few years later. They are pictured here at the National Undertaker Convention group in Chicago, Illinois.

Left Photograph: William and Anna to the left of the red X.

Right Photograph: William to the right of the red X.



WCHS Word Scramble

W J MARTSRONG PYMNCAO
 EOLWHSLEA OEGRCRS
 JNHO W GUHAAHEBUGN OSEUH
 ILHOP C BALYEI SUOEH
 HNAMNFO ASIPREAI
 AELVLJIENS FEER LICUBP RRYILBA
 SEHA HMURGOS ILLM
 RERTGSSAN EUERFG LDEGO EBNURM OOFI
 ASTIV HARLTNUE CHHCUR
 ECOSOR P WRDA USOEH
 AWSECA YONTCU ROCUTHEOSU
 WLIAMML R FOLW OEHSU

WCHS is a recipient of

Thrivent Financial Choice Dollars Program

With Thrivent Choice®, you can recommend where some of Thrivent Financials charitable outreach funds go. Since 2010, more than \$370 million has been distributed to churches and nonprofits nationwide. www.thrivent.com

A Special Thanks to Ron and Janet Johnson for providing funds to microfilm the Waseca County newspapers from 2017 - 2020.

Newspapers can be viewed in the Bailey/Lewer Research Library on our updated microfilm readers also supported by donations from Ron and Janet Johnson. We appreciate this generosity and so do our guests as newspapers are one of our most important resources in our library.

Thank you!



Pauline Fenelon

Artifact & Library Curator



Jan Hunter

Research & Genealogy



Virginia McCarthy

Research & Genealogy



Amanda Larkin

Admin. Assistant



Word Scramble Answers: J W Armstrong Company, Wholesale Grocers, John W Aughenbaugh House, Philo C Bailey House, Hofmann Apiaries, Janesville Free Public Library, Seha Sorghum Mill, Strangers Refuge Lodge Number IOOF, Vista Lutheran Church, Roscoe P Ward House, Waseca County Courthouse, William R Wolf House

Waldorf - What is the connection between Waldorf and the Hamm Brewery?



A mystery: We recently received an email from one of our favorite sleuths, Patty Masberg of the Waseca Abstract Company. Patty was researching Lot 14, Block 7, in the City of Waldorf when she ran across a deed that transferred this Waldorf property from Andrew and Margaret Crain to the Theo Hamm Brewing Company, dated October 31st, 1912. A second deed, dated June 15th 1936 transferred the deed to this same property from the Theo Hamm Brewing Company to H. F. Eberlein.

We wanted to know why the Brewery Company owned this property, 100 miles south of their St. Paul Brewery. It had only been three years since the signer of this second deed, William Hamm Jr., the grandson of owner and president Theo. Hamm, had been the target of a kidnapping. It turns out that

gangsters from the Barker-Karpis Gang cooked up a way to make a fast \$100,000 by snatching William, the heir to the Brewery fortune, off the street one day and hiding him out in Illinois while they arranged for the ransom rendezvous. Within two days of the ransom drop off north of Pine City, William Hamm was returned unharmed, on the side of a rural

road near Wyoming, Minnesota. The same gang went on to kidnap the heir to the Schmidt Brewing Company, but this time the crime backfired since the FBI became involved and was relentless in tracking the gang down. In 1935, Fred Barker and his mother "Ma" Barker were killed in a shoot-out, brother Doc Barker was arrested and co-conspirator, Alvin Karpis was captured by federal agents in 1936.

All very interesting, but again, what connection does the Hamm Brewery have to this little piece of property located on the Main Street of Waldorf? And were the people of Waldorf aware of all the drama going on with the owner of their little Main Street property?



One of our own Society members, Waldorf historian, Clark Meyer led us to some interesting information. He pointed out that a chronology of owners and renters of this property are outlined in a "Touch of Waldorf History" by Judy Joecks, a book in our Bailey-Lewer Research Library collection! So, why did the Hamm Brewing Co. buy not only this lot, but another one close by? It seems that breweries strategized that if they opened saloons in towns around

Minnesota, they could distribute their product more widely and attract a wider range of customers! So, a smart marketing decision for Hamm's Beer! End of mystery? How did the national prohibition law affect this property? Do any of our readers have more stories about this era in Waldorf history?



William Hamm Jr.
Creator: Eric Mortenson
Credit: Minnesota Historical Society

Block 7, Lot 14 Waldorf, MN

1912: Andrew Crain to Hamms Brewing Company

1936: Hamms Brewing Company to H.F. Eberlein

Prohibition: Jan 17, 1920 – Dec 5, 1933

Renters during the years 1912-1936:

1912-1917 Thomas Foley Restaurant and Saloon

1917-1919: JE. Wagamann Quick Lunch

1919-1929: Olinger/Jorgenson/Christenson Café

1929-1935: Tomson's Café

1936-1937: Bauman Cafe

*Hamm's also purchased Lot 11, Block 7 in 1909 where Tom Foley ran his saloon until 1928 when the lot was sold to Herb Wangen.

<https://www.mnopedia.org/multimedia/ww-dunn-william-hamm-jr>

<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/barker-karpis-gang>

A Tribute to Shady Oaks Nursery



Any gardener in the state of Minnesota remembers Shady Oaks Nursery located right here in Waseca. Founded in 1982 by UMW Plant Biologist and teacher, Clayton Oslund. Shady Oaks was a mail order nursery specializing in plants for shady environments.

Oslund's own challenges sent him searching for plants that would grow in the shade, as his backyard was well shaded under a canopy of oaks.

He eventually found plant selections that could tolerate shade. When he had enough growing in his backyard, he offered them for sale.

By 1984 the business outgrew the backyard and garage. He purchased five acres north of Waseca and put up a greenhouse, growing primarily hostas. In 1989, a former implement building in Waseca was purchased to handle orders and shipping. The business was still strictly mail order, employing four people to help with planting, growing and shipping. Oslund worked part time at the nursery until he retired from teaching in 1992. In 1993, Shady Oaks opened its doors to retail customers. In 1994 another building was purchased. Plants were sold throughout the growing season. Customers could shop for established plants under numerous shaded green houses. If you were a gardener with a shady yard you were a customer of Shady Oaks.

Clayton Oslund is a plant biologist. He put his skills to use by reproducing plants from tissue culture, not division or seed.

This is something he taught students in his biology labs at UMW. Tissue is taken from the growing point, or meristem of the plant, and cultured in a nutrient medium under sterile conditions. When the plantlet "shoots" develop they can be divided into large numbers of plantlets. The new plants can then be planted in soil where they continue to grow.

Shady Oaks was known for their hostas. Hans Hansen was the research and development coordinator at Shady Oaks. Hansen is credited for developing 10 new hosta varieties, three are patented. Hansen also managed the lab and the tissue culture process. and provided the photographs of the plants for the catalog.

In 2001 Shady Oaks discontinued retail sales, but continued growing plants for the wholesale market under the direction of son Gordy Oslund and wife Julie Oslund. Shady Oaks not only grew tissue cultured hostas, they offered succulents, herbs and specialty geraniums. In 2012 Shady Oaks Nursery was sold to Plant Source International, a plant source for wholesale growers.

In 2020 WCHS added the Shady Oaks Tribute Garden to the Bailey-Lewer House landscape. Plants were donated by Tim and Audra Nissan Boyer who purchased Hans Hansen's home in Waseca. Hansen left a legacy of his work in the acres of gardens planted with many of the varieties developed and sold at the nursery. The Shady Oaks sign from the building was donated By Nick Poehler, a student of Clayton and friend of the Oslund family.

The Tribute Garden can be viewed from the Bailey-Lewer House accessibility ramp on the west side of the building.



Shady Oaks Patented Hostas:

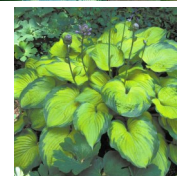
"Touch of Class" Blue and Chartreuse, available. Proven Winners.



"Titanic" Very large. 4-5' across, green and gold. Available.



"Old Glory" Medium sized plant with light green leaves in the center with dark green edge. Available.



The Waseca County Historical Society Annual Meeting and Dinner will be held on Wednesday October 20th at the WCHS Museum. We will be serving a traditional **Turkey Dinner** catered by the **Red Leaf Café**. Please join us for this savory dinner featuring; mashed potatoes and gravy, dressing, green beans and of course pumpkin pie!

Paid Reservations are necessary and must be in by Monday October 11. Sorry, no refunds after Monday Oct. 11. Sign up today! **835-7700 Dinner Tickets: \$18**



Don't Miss The
WCHS ANNUAL MEETING and Dinner
Wednesday Oct 20

Social Hour : 5 - 6 p.m.
Meeting : 6 - 6:30 p.m.
Dinner Served at 6:30

*Paid Reservation
deadline: Mon.
October 11*

The Holidays are coming!

OPEN HOUSE: We are looking forward to our Holiday Open House on Saturday December 4th. from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the WCHS Museum. We will be hosting choir performances from the Waseca High School and JWP.

Check our website and Facebook for scheduled times.
www.historical.waseca.mn.us



Loaned items welcome for the Holiday Exhibit.

Our Collection is short on artifacts from the years we all remember, 1950 - 1970.

We would like to keep the timeline focused on this era to better tell your story.

Items of interest: Holiday clothing, home décor, toys, decorations and, of course, photographs.