INSIDE: Holiday Traditions Open House | Annual Meeting & New Board Members | Hofmann Apiaries Update | Spring Exhibit: VANISHED! | Into the Collection | Research Library News
Winter Events

January 11 First WCHS Board Meeting of 2017, 6 p.m., at the museum
January 13 Last day of the Holiday Traditions exhibit
February 6-26 Sleigh & Cutter Days
March 4 Exhibit Opening “VANISHED—The First Settlements”
March TBD Timeline Education Day for Sixth-graders
April 3 Monday Study Club meeting, 2 p.m.

Gift Shopping Online? www.smile.amazon.com
Designate “Waseca County Historical Society”—a portion will be donated!

Don’t forget to visit our other media!

How are we doing?

From Doug Lodermeier, Herter collector and exhibit collaborator:

Hi, Sheila,

First, thank you for the kind words. It was fun working with everyone over there for the last three years. You folks do a wonderful job and I hope we can work together again in the future. Keep up the good work! . . .

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From a returning board member, Jim King:

The mark of a good organization is to look forward with new ideas, new blood and a new focus! However the end of the year is a time to look back and reflect on past accomplishments. When I first joined the board ten years ago we had some serious issues. Financially we faced the challenges of losing money every year, with no financial reserves and low endowment balances. We had some physical problems with our buildings, no permanent museum displays and challenges that had to be met. We did have a skilled and motivated staff and a board that were willing to meet some of these problems head on.

Your 2017 Fact Sheet is very well done, everyone should be proud of what WCHS has done over the years. I have been to a number of small county Historical Societies and we certainly rank among the very top! Looking forward to a great 2017!!

Hartley’s 5th grade teacher, Mrs. Smidt invited WCHS to visit her classroom as they studied “Immigration”. What does it mean to leave your home country, perhaps forever? What did immigrants accomplish?
Dear Members

A quarterly message from the Co-Executive Directors—Joan Mooney and Sheila Morris

Welcome new Board Members

—Virginia McCarthy, Marty Buum, and returning board member Jim King. Also, we’re grateful that Dave Dunn and Linda Grant renewed for another three-year term. And though we will miss working with her, we understand how busy she is—Katie Youngberg has resigned. She is a devoted mom of two active sons. She volunteers on their behalf for the Boy Scout activities and, she also serves on the Waseca Area School Board. Thanks so much, Katie, for your time with us!

At the Annual Meeting on November 9, we paid tribute to two long-time and generous board members who “exhausted” their terms—Rev. Charles Espe and Henry Lewer; and we recognized our Volunteer of the Year—Judy Joecks.

Visitors Far and Near

The museum has been receiving lots of visitors. That is probably the best part of our jobs here—getting to know so many new people, and friends from past visits. The other day a young father brought in his nine-year old daughter to “check out the museum.” Many people say, they have walked or driven by our building feeling curious about what is inside, but not having time until they do. They’re always surprised at the Timeline exhibit. Some come in to shop. Some have driven here to research their genealogy. Some are visiting relatives and come in to see what has changed. Others are making their annual fund donations or updating their membership. “I don’t want to miss the newsletters.” Still others stop in for a talk and a cup of coffee, “I have this stack of magazines and letters I found in a trunk in mother’s attic, do you want them?” or “I need to write an article about George Buckman, as Curt Brown said before he wrote the article for the Star Tribune.

Last summer a group of retired campers called from Kieslers’ campground and wanted to visit our museum on a Saturday. We scheduled a date and time for their visit of about 12 people. They spent more than an hour reading every bit of the Timeline exhibit. They asked me specific questions about statements on the panels. They had visited many, many local history organizations similar in size to WCHS, but they thought WCHS was one of the best they had ever seen. Will they ever return? Maybe, maybe not, but their smiling and exuberant appreciation was very much appreciated!

Since the opening of the Timeline on October 8, 2015 we have noted that visitors have come from 30 different states, 133 Minnesota communities, and 5 foreign countries. Most recently a Janesville native came home from Guam to visit family. She sent WCHS a generous donation appreciating what WCHS does every day to support its mission of saving our county community’s history.

It goes on, and it will continue to go on because residents and visitors continue to discover and rediscover what is right here in this community—a cracker jack museum and research library, and a passionate board and staff. Some people take longer to appreciate history, but sooner or later it happens. As individuals and as families, as organizations, and as businesses—we evolve and history will remember. Will you?

What’s Ahead

As we’ve maintained the very same annual events schedule for ten years, we are looking at presenting some different programming this spring and summer—at the same time taking
some much needed time off. Then in 2018 the city of Waseca will be celebrating its Sesquicentennial and All School Reunion. WCHS historical resources will be available. Please remember! We are a staff of just 5 PT people. We can show you how to search, but you must do the actual research and presentation of that information—whether it is for a pageant play, banners, displays, brochures, music, photos, yearbooks, tours, newspapers, and more—individuals and/or committees must plan to do the actual research.

Ruth Ann Hager posters

Several years ago a WCHS member and friend who was so well known as a writer/journalist, Ruth Ann Hager, painted her impression of her hometown—Waseca. She passed away in 2014, and her family recently donated the remaining inventory of her watercolor painting prints. They are now available in our Gift Shop.

Ongoing Museum Building

Electrical Improvements

We have replaced key outlets, fixtures, and other wiring in our 100-year old building. In January floor outlets will be installed on the main floor exhibit area so that we can light our display cases without a grid of taped extension cords about the spaces. Eventually we need to access the ring of fixtures that light up our beautiful interior dome painted by Mark Barens. This requires a rented man-lift and then determination of needs which we hope is just replacement of bulbs to LEDs. If you would like to contribute to the Elective Improvements Project, it will help us keep the WCHS Collection and our beautiful building safe.

These two brothers were the last visitors on the last day of the final Herter exhibit on October 28. One drove from South Dakota and the other from Missouri, both taking the day off. They loved learning more about George Herter’s life in Waseca.

Bailey-Lewer Library News

The Bailey-Lewer Library continues to be an important asset to the Waseca County Historical Society. New materials and sources are always being added to the collection. One of the most used resources at the library is the county cemetery index. The indexing and photographing of cemetery markers is always a work in progress. That progress took a big step forward recently due to the work of Julia and Mike Laas of Bloomington who finished photographing and indexing St. Ann’s Cemetery in Alton Township after two summers’ of work. They also went the extra mile by creating and encapsulating very large sectional maps with burial names. Their work included copies of St. Ann’s original burial records which they placed in 3-ring binders ready for the library shelves. All of their fine work is deeply appreciated.

Another ongoing cemetery project involves entering the cemetery information into the WCHS website database. Thanks to all the volunteers who have worked on photographing and indexing county cemeteries for many years, staff can now methodically view and enter each photograph and inscription from their work. Simultaneously, staff can review what has already been entered into the database and make corrections and additions if needed. Our policy is to enter exactly what the marker inscription presents us with. Some burials have no markers, but

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The Hofmann Apiaries, located north of Janesville, MN was founded at the turn of the century and operated for nearly 85 years, receiving regional and national attention. It is the only apiary listed on the National Register of Historic Places in the state and the only one in the nation to offer interpretive programs and services to beekeepers.

Architectural Construction Drawings—$16,000

Thanks to everyone who contributed to Phase One: Construction Documentation and Scope of Work. We have raised $11,595 to date. Our new goal is $3,400.

The drawings, specifications and scope of work must meet the Standards for Rehabilitation of Historic Structures to qualify for Legacy funding. The construction documentation will be used throughout the restoration process and for future maintenance. SMSQ Architects of Northfield have been contracted and are currently working on the documents over the winter. The ball is rolling!

The Honey House and Wax Shed are the primary structures for exhibits, programs and tours. The Honey House will serve as the centerpiece of the “Honeybee Farming” narrative, describing the processing, bottling, and marketing of honey. The building will feature interpretive signage.

The Wax Shed will house exhibits, including a permanent display related to “The Honeybee” narrative, describing how bees gather nectar and pollen, make honey, and pollinate plants, as well as the behavior of the honeybee.

The restoration project depends heavily on donations. Legacy grant requests out number available funds. Large grants are very competitive and can be applied for just once a year. The apiary structures are structurally sound, but the roof and window conditions are quickly deteriorating.

Please donate if you can . . .

We have much more information available. If interested call Joan or better yet, stop in. We are very excited about this project! Thanks again everybody! Happy Holidays!

FUNDRAISING GOALS:

PHASE I
Construction drawings, Scope of Work, and Specifications
COST: $3,400 to go!

PHASE II
Estimated Total Cost for the Exterior Restoration of the Honey House and Wax Shed, COST: $106,245

How To Donate
To make a tax-deductible donation, make check payable: Waseca County Historical Society, and note 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

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

Also visit: www.hofmannapiaries.org
Pauline Fenelon, WCHS staff, had processed this sennibari banner, but then learned of the Obon Society, whose mission is to return the sennibari to Japan. She received this letter a few weeks after sending them the sennibari in our collection:

Dear Pauline:

This email is an update about the sennibari you sent to OBON SOCIETY earlier this year. We have documented and cataloged this item and it is safely stored away in archival containers for preservation. The images of this item have been sent to our scholars in Japan for analysis. They have examined the images and given the item their full consideration. They replied that this item lacks enough information to allow us to trace it back to the proper family. They feel very sorry they did not have more writing to analyze. We will keep the flag in our archives and return it to Japan at some future time for it to be used in educational displays to tell the story of this war, or pass it on to priests for proper handling. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your generous heart and warm feelings towards the people of Japan.

Respectfully,
Rex & Keiko Ziak
Obon Society Co-founders

http://obonsociety.org or www.obon2015.com
New Members
Lomman, Carrie
Nelson, Doug
Greenwald, Gordon and Sharon
Hubschman, Donald/Donna
Strome, Roy
McCacken, Bruce (MT)

One-Year Sustainer Members, $100
McCarthy, George/Jan
Dunn, Dave/Melissa

Renewed Members
Amsrud, Mary
Anderson, Andrea/Ben
Bliven, Mark
Bluhm, Jane/Robin
Buening, Orrville (CA)
Roemhildt, Charlene
Buker, Mark/Barb
Botler, Diane (WI)
Carpenter, Michael J.
Cervenka, Robert
Cypher, Lynda (AZ)
Dey, James/Cathy
Dicke, Jeff/Jackie
Dobberstein, Deb/Gary
Dunn, Dave/Melissa
Engel, Kathryn
Ewert, Margaret
Fenelon, Kari
Fenelon, Pauline
Fitzsimmons, William/Sandra
Forrest, Sally
Fritz, Loren
Gash, Merideth (CA)
Gasker, Eunice (ND)
Gilbertson, Carolyn
Gilomen, Carlotta
Grable, Sue (NM)
Grant, Linda
Guentzel, Richard
Harguth, Char
Harguth, Dorothy
Hawkings, William (PA)
Hodges, Gregory (WI)
Hoffman, Betty
Hogan, James
Hunter, Robert
King, Jim and Barb
Kunst, Dave (CA)
Lerchner, Karen
Linihan, Mike
MacFarlane, Colleen
Miller, Sarah Behrens
Morris, Rick/Sheila
Neidt, Mille
Norman, Beverlee (AZ)
Oblak, John
Rausch, Carol/William
Raymond, Ellen (FL)
Reak, Bonnie
Rosenthal, Gregg
Routh, Warren
Schuster, Bonnie/Lowell
Staley, Jayne
Sullief, JoAnn
Welch, Eugene
Zimprich, Shirley

Year-end Annual Fund
Initiated October 14 to present
Allen, Mary
Alton Township Board
Arvesen, Eileen
Bloomington Grove All-in-One Fund
Bloomington Grove
Cruz, Karen A.
Crystal Valley
Curran, Helen
Deef, Robert/Romelle
Dobberstein, Deb/Gary
Dunn, Dave/Melissa
Espe, Charles/Kathy
Everett, Will
Ewert, Margaret
Gasner, Eunice
Gayko, Bernnie/Ann
Gerding, James/Josephine
Goehring, Pam/Larry
Harguth, Dorothy-In memory of Art Hutchins
Hoffman, Robert/Judy
Iosco Township
Janesville City Council
Joecks, Dale/Judy
Johnson, L. Steven
King, Jim/Barb
Lohse, Linda/Paul
Lundquist, Ole/Jan
McIntire, Betty
Miller, Jean
Miller, Juanita
Nelson, Carolyn
New Richland Area H.S.
Nelke, Nela
Personalized Printing
Peters, Jurgen/Jacqueline
Pipe, David
Prail, Janet
Rosenhall, Jeanette
Ross, Jackie
Routh, Warren
Rudolph, Janet
Schultz, Kent
Searle, Ruth-In memory of Rod Searle
Smith, Keith and Wilda
St. Mary Township
Strand, Mel
Swenson, Virginia
Tollefson, Kathyn-In honor of Ron & Janet
Johnson
United Group Benefits
Webber, Wendy-In memory of great-great grandparents, Patrick and Mary (Bradish)
Fitzibbon
Welch, Janet
White, Mildred
Wick, Ralph/Lorraine
Wilson Township
Witt, Gene/Fauniece
Wobbschall, Avis
Wurg, Patricia

Other Donations
Thrivent Match
Annette Kaster
Anonymous
Waseca Area Retired Educators
Roger/Jeannine Grosskretz
Steve/Theresa Johnson
Pat Hanson and family
Jeannine Lorenz Thompson and family
Scott/Diane Beckmann, Thrivent Choice
Jacqueline Senne, Thrivent Choice
Eugene Welch
Janesville High School Class of 1966
Carol Wobschall

Special Gifts
Henny and Phyllis Lwer, $200,000
To establish a fund, “Bailey-Lewer Library Maintenance Fund”

Diane Beckmann, $500
With Thrivent $1,000, double match
Don and Margaret Wynmerrer, $2,000
Exp-Mobil Foundation, $2,000 matching donation

Dale and Judy Joecks—A copy of Harold Tesch’s WWII book of photos and narrative
Ruth Ann Hager family—The gift of Ruth Ann’s watercolor prints inventory, and archives of her writing career.

Memorials
In memory of Robert Sutter
by Ruth Ann and Don Miller
by Robert and Janette Larson
by Johnn Sullief
In memory of Gladys Deppe Kletschka
by Donna Fostveit
In memory of George Harding
by Donna Fostveit
In memory of Glynnis Phelps
by Donna Fostveit
In memory of Harold Ackman
by Dale and Judy Jecoks
by Linda Grant
In memory of Ralph Huxford
by Dale and Judy Jecoks

Appropriations, total for the year
Waseca County, $60,000
City of Waseca, $4,500
City of Janesville, $1,000
New Richland Township, $1,000
Otosco Township, $400
Freedom Township, $150
Byron Township, $250
Janesville Township, $150
Atton Township, $400
Bloomington Grove, $250
Wil-ton Township, $300
St. Mary Township, $200
Iosco Township, $250
Woodville Township, $150

Grants Received
$10,000—Minnesota Arts & Cultural Heritage Grant for the Hofmann Apiaries Phase One Project

Volunteers
Cap Peterson
CJ Joecks
Cory Boje
Eleanor Rezac
George Kastelle
Jean Lundquist
Jim King
John Hanson and students, Tyler
Wendland and Sam Nelson
Judy Joecks
Justine Meyer

Here’s a Waseca High School senior who loves history and a lot of other subjects and activities—Olivia Boyer, the daughter of former board member Audra, and Tim Boyer. THIS IS ONE OF HER SENIOR CLASS OF 2017 GRADUATION PORTRAITS—taken in our own Bailey-Lewer Library!
“Holiday Traditions” Exhibit
thru January 13
Tues-Fri, 9-5—FREE!

GIVE A GIFT OF WCHS MEMBERSHIP!

For a son or daughter, parent or friend. You’ve enjoyed the learning and seeing, the searching online, the beautiful old photographs, and finding the unexpected historical tidbits!

Just $25 for Individual Membership.

USE THE ENCLOSED MEMBERSHIP ENVELOPE!

Also, what about the Gift of Remembering or Honoring a loved one with a Memorial or Honorarium in their name. USE THE SAME ENCLOSED ENVELOPE!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!
HAPPY NEW YEAR,
TO ALL!

Deb Yess and the Waseca High School Choirs entertained for our Open House on December 3.