Waseca County Historical Society

Volume 38 Issue 2 June 2016

INSIDE:

July 2 Chautauqua at Trowbridge

County Fair July 13-17

Herter Recipe Potluck Sampler July 29



History Notes

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

A MEMORIAL FOR ALL WASECA COUNTY MEN & WOMEN SERVED OUR COUNTRY IN ALL

ND WOMEN COUNTY ROTECT USTICE, AND EIR COUNTRY. History Notes is a publication of the Waseca County Historical Society ©2016 P.O. Box 314, Waseca, MN 56093 315 Second Avenue N.E. 507-835-7700 www.historical.waseca.mn.us

WCHS 2016 Board of Directors:

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Sheila Morris, Co-Executive Director Development & Exhibits sheilam@historical.waseca.mn.us

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

Vanessa Zimprich, Artifacts/Website artifact@historical.waseca.mn.us

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

WCHS HOURS: Tuesdays-Fridays, 9-5; Closed Mondays



Summer Events

Coming soon! | New Exhibit: "George Leonard Herter, the Man and the Myth" on display through mid-November.

July 2 | Annual Chautauqua at Trowbridge Park in Waseca. See page 5 for more details—FREE ADMISSION!

July 13-17 | Waseca County Free Fair—Exhibits, Concessions, 12-9 p.m. daily

July 29 | Herter's Recipes Potluck Sampler; 5-8 p.m. at the museum

Watch for our new website: www.historical.waseca.mn.us

Gift Shopping Online? www.smile.amazon.com Designate "Waseca County Historical Society" a portion will be donated to WCHS!

Next year in 2017, our museum building will be **100 years old.** With recent improvements it should be in good shape for the party. It has its own history. The ar-



chitecture is special to the Methodist Church it once was. Many visitors once attended Sunday School here and have good memories, some mischievous. How many of you made it

around the building walking on this narrow ledge and clinging to whatever? Was there a club of such daredevils? Tell us your stories! Got photographs?



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.





Dear Members

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

t's been a productive and active few months. How are you all? We've had lots of visitors, the WCHS Board is actively working on projects born out of their 2015 Strategic Plan. Another successful Spring Luncheon-Lecture Series is ending and we are so grateful to PLRAC grants which keeps this programming possible. Now we have a full summer ahead, and we're adding hours.

About the Exhibits

"Waldorf: In Touch With Its History," has been extremely well attended. We are so grateful to Judy Joecks, Clark Meyer, and Marty Tesch for sharing their personal collections, and to Judy for donating the master copy of "A Touch of Waldorf History." This is a humble title for the detailed compendium she finished in 2015. We have been collecting orders at \$30 each. If you are interested in a copy, stop by to place your order. We will fulfill those orders

in June. Another publication date may not happen until a mini-



mum is reached again, so place your order asap. We are so proud that this exhibit has attracted so many people, evoking so much remembering and emotion. It did

what we always try to accomplish with our exhibits and programs, and that's MAKE CONNECTIONS, REMEMBER, SHARE! See what happens next spring 2017 when we present

"Memory Towns of Waseca County." Why do towns come and go? What makes them endure?

George Leonard Herter, the Man and the Myth

The Summer exhibit will present the third and final exhibit based on the history of Herter's in Waseca. As George Herter was a

native son with deep roots, there is still a great deal of his history yet to be presented. The Herter archives contain original images, artwork, and paste-ups of his popular and outrageous publications. The Herter cookbooks are favorites of collectors. An event during the exhibit that we are excited about is the Herter **Recipe Potluck Sampler** on July 29 at the museum. We need par-





ticipants who have a favorite recipe to share. Please call and register your dish. We need Herter fans to attend also. Paid reservations are due by JULY 22. Call 507-835-7700 to register, reserve or for more information.

The Timeline wins award!

The Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums is an group of museum professionals whose mission is "Peers Helping Peers." Colleagues we've met at these workshops come from various experience and expertise levels. There is always sharing of information, resources, and expertise. There are many organizations managed by volunteers,

and small or part-time staffs, like ours, running on passion to tell the stories within their communities. We are proud to receive the 2016 MALHM Program Award for our per-



manent exhibit, the Timeline of Unique Stories from Waseca County.

New Hours, Summer Saturdays!

Starting on June 11 through the summer, the Waseca County History Center will be open on Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This is something we have wanted to do, but not until the Timeline exhibit was completed and we had a roster of volunteers to make this happen. We're trying this for the summer with the

help of our Board of Directors. ALSO, consider "Museum Meet-ups". We're asking you to organize a group of friends, family members, or neighbors-and host a small reception, a visit, or a playdate for school-age kids with cookies and milk, a



reunion, an evening gathering with appetizers-A MUSEUM MEET-UP. It can be during regular hours, on a Saturday, or an

evening-just call Sheila Morris, 835-7700, to coordinate the visit. We want groups to come experience the museum as the cultural



community resource it is, in a new way to share *among friends*. We have enjoyed hosting many high school and family reunions already, so let's keep it going! That's it for now, have a great summer and we hope to see you at the Waseca County History Center sometime soon! -Sheila and Joan





More visitors included Todd Stencel, a Wilton Township board member, and his daughter Shanna, just home from college. They represent one of the goals of the Timeline exhibit—to get the generations sharing their history!



If you're a genealogist or researcher/ writer, you'll be happy to see this beautiful new **digital microfilm reader**. Check out the size of that screen and the easy operation. We are grateful to the Minnesota Historical & Cultural Heritage Grants program for funding this significant addition to the Bailey-Lewer Library.

May was Preservation Month—This year's winners of the Waseca Historic Preservation Awards are—John and Teri Pribble's home, Diane Kortuem's Summerhouse Farm, Barden's, and the Homestead shop. Joan Mooney and Preservation Commission members presented.

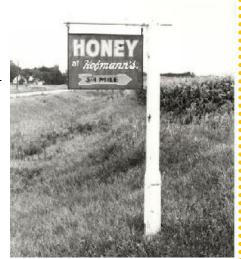


THE HOFMANN APIARIES ARE ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER ... WHAT'S NEXT?

The Hofmann Apiaries, located north of Janesville, Minnesota, 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 and one of only three listings related to honey bees.

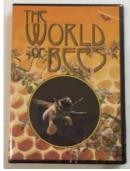
It is thought that in the 1920s Hofmann Apiaries was the largest producer of honey in Minnesota. The operation employed innovative methods resulting in unusually large



crops of honey for the amount of manpower utilized. Three well-preserved buildings and a water reservoir utilized in the

production of honey still stand; the earliest building dates from the late 1800s. Large storage tanks and much original equipment still exist.

People the world over are increasingly aware that honey bees are in peril. The owners of Hofmann Apiaries believe that they may help by offering education and service. The owners hope to return buildings and equipment to functionality after which the site can offer much to local and regional beekeepers, especially those new to beekeeping. Plans include offering demonstrations, classes, seminars, extracting service, and support. The name currently favored for



THE WORLD OF BEES Newly restored DVD by Charlie Hofmann, available NOW for \$15

this endeavor is the Hofmann Center for Honey Bees. How can you help? How would you like to participate?

> Please contact Joan Mooney: (507) 835-7700 or director@historical.waseca.mn.us

In the meantime, learn more about Charlie Hofmann and his honey farm:

www.hofmannapiaries.org

Chautauqua celebrates summer & music on July 2 at Trowbridge Park!

On the program:

OboeBass-Vecchione & Erdahl are gifted musicians and storytellers. Check this out, they perform playing only an Oboe and a String-Bass. Google "oboe-bass" and see how they bring stories alive with their musical interpretation. Chautauqua is perfect for a performance like theirs. Music, the summer, tree shade, family, hot dogs, popcorn, more music, more fun! FREE AD-MISSION—Thanks to the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council, the Minnesota Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund, and the E.F. Johnson Foundation Fund.

As American Roots Music is growing all the time around our region, we present the Jack Klatt Group. Here's a guy that has

traveled, experienced different musical traditions, writes original songs and loves to play music wherever an audience may gather.

And the popular local singer/songwriter/musician-Pete Klug. You've heard the name, you may know the family. We're proud to bring him up to the old bandstand. Get ready to get on your feet, and feel the beat!







Also on the program is storyteller and naturalist Al Batt; and the Puppet Farm Arts group. We wonder what "over-grown animal puppet with personality" made from recycled stuff will they entertain the kids with this year?

Chautauqua is presented as a gift to the Waseca area community by the Waseca County Historical Society. In our fourteenth year of re-creating the Chautauquas that were once presented here in the 1880s/90s. The Chautauqua brought a little culture to the prairie lakes

Midwestern masses in our early history, wherever there was an invite and an outdoor park to

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.





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The Preservation Month of May

The City of Waseca Heritage Preservation Commission celebrates the architectural period: **Mid-Century Modern, 1945-1965**—*Can you identify these styles as you drive around our county?*

he end of WWII sparked the construction of new homes in America. Returning soldiers took advantage of affordable government sponsored mortgages. The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 gave over 13 million returning veterans the opportunity to own their first home. Many families abandoned post-war rental dwellings and headed to the suburbs. Life was good. The demand was heavy. The houses had to be sturdy, well built, and cost no more than \$10,000 by government regulation. Traditional housing styles were abandoned. Modern design was simple. National Plan Service Inc. provided 36 different designs in a series of catalogs which included floor plans with options. The 1945 Style Trends catalog offered small home designs not lacking in architectural interest, but "for practical reasons the fanciful and bizarre are purposely omitted". Is your home Mid-Century Modern?





Do you recognize the local examples of Mid-Century Modern architecture?



The Ranch-1945-1975

The end of WWII ignited the housing industry in America. Never before, had there been such a high demand for homes. Architectural



styling evolved to accommodate changing lifestyles. The lines were clean and simple. The Minimal Tradition style was dominant in post-war 1940s and early 50s. Like the Tudor style of the 1920s and 30s, the Minimal Tradition style had a dominant front gable and sometimes large chimneys. Absent were the steep sloping roofs and decorative detailing. These well built houses were affordable and remain a mainstay in neighborhoods today.

By 1950 a new style of house was gaining popularity, the Ranch. First introduced in the mid 1930s but grew in demand in the 1950s/60s as Americans embraced the automobile as the status quo. The inclusion of the attached garage elongated the facade. The early Ranch style was a one story with the lowest roofline yet. The facades were broad and rambling, hence the name "Rambler," long and low to the ground. The Ranch reflected larger lot availability, as communities expanded into suburbs. This period represents the beginning of domestic architectural design. Exterior features included decorative shutters, porch roof supports of ornamental iron and stone/brick veneer. Ribbon windows-several windows placed side by side to form a continuous band, and large picture windows are a common feature as well. Both the Minimal Traditional and the Ranch style houses line the streets of our neighborhoods and roadsides. Patty Masberg of Waseca Title Company has provided a partial list of

Ranch-style Rambler house at 909 11th St. N.E., later known as Clear Lake Drive; built in 1955 by Dr. Ray and Greta Davis, who owned it less than 5 years; eventually selling to Walt and June Zarris. In 2003 it became the Richard and Janet Will residence, owners of the Will Company, Waseca, MN.

Waseca County Contractors 1930-1950: Arnold Construction, R.G. Brown, Cahill and Lampert, Frank Clasen, N.P. Dewey, Wallschlaeger Construction, R. Nyquist, John Seashore, Erick Sjostrand, William Jeddeloh, George Somers, Walter Spies, Standard Lumber Company, A.A. Sterns, H.A. Woyke, Central Lumber, Iverson Building Supply, G.C. Kolmier Construction, Botsford Lumber, Geo. E. Calstrom, and Ben Neitge Construction Company. Who built your house?

The Contemporary-1950-1970

Mid-Century Modern style is a mix of subtypes and styles. Subtypes include the Ranch, Split-level Ranch, Contemporary, and Shed. The Contemporary style homes share certain characteristics. Examples are low pitched or flat rooflines, large picture windows, asymmetrical placement of doors and windows, overhanging eaves, flat planes, simple clean lines, attention to light and the outdoors. Sliding glass doors provided more light and easy transition to the outside landscape. Changes in elevation allowed the otherwise detached garage to be tucked under and accessible without going outside. Interior changes such as folding curtains and partial walls allowed more natural light into the home. Perhaps the most deliberate change is in the architecture. Geometric lines and angles make this style home stand out. Nothing borrowed and scarcely a trace of exterior decoration. The introduction of new materials



for the Contemporary often included steel and concrete. Modular construction using enameled steel was introduced by the Lustron Corporation in 1948. Designed for mass production, these homes were marketed as a "never having to paint" alternative to conventional finishes, therefore, more time could be spent on leisurely activities with the family.

Waseca County Minnesota in the World War "I Ain't Mad at Nobody."

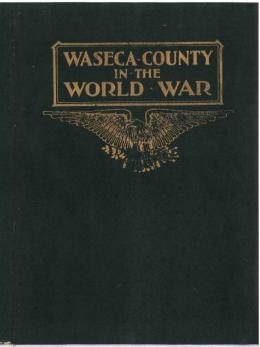
S ometime next year the United States will begin commemorating its entrance into the World War, the Great War, the one they believed would be the only "world war." Waseca County sent 750 young men to serve and hopefully come home. Many died in battle, many died of flu and pneu-

L-R: Dr. Prail, his son, and Mrs. Prail; "Uncle Sam" is Charles Ward; child and "President Wilson" are unidentified.

monia. In 1917 war had been raging in Europe for nearly three years. President Woodrow Wilson had served one term and was running for another in 1916. In his campaign he stated that he would not lead the U.S. into the war in Europe. Wilson was known as a peacemaker, and worked for peaceful negotiation over armed conflict. The League of Nations is part of his legacy, as is the 1920 Nobel Peace Prize awarded to him for his efforts on behalf of the League of Nations. As it was, the United States never joined the League of Nations because Congress could not support the Treaty of Versailles. Woodrow Wilson died in 1924. (SOURCE: Woodrow Wilson Library)

In this Fourth of July photograph is a patriotically decorated automobile and its passengers getting ready for the parade. The man with quite a





good likeness to President Wilson dressed as the president is unidentified. With him is Charles Ward appearing as "Uncle Sam." Driving the Overland vehicle with his wife, is Dr. Prail, a Waseca dentist. This is one of our favorite collection photographs because of the phrase hand-lettered on the poster on the automobile---"I Ain't Mad at Nobody." We are still searching to document the origin of the quote, perhaps a song lyric. It seemed an outrageous phrase until we came to understand the context and connection to Wilson's presidency and World War. Wilson staved off U.S. involvement in the intense struggle of the war in Europe as long as he could. Ultimately, there were many factors and the public was still outraged by the attack and sinking of trade and cruise ships, including the *Lusitania*. The United States declared war with Germany on April 6, 1917. Wilson signed the Selective Service Act on May 18.

The WWI effort in Waseca County

"Waseca County in the World War" is a significant publication. Every soldier who served is not only listed, but his service record, locations of service, citations, and a photograph if at all possible. In fact it is stated several times that every effort was made to include a portrait of the soldier for posterity. In the initial pages are the heroes who died in service. Also documented are the Red Cross nurses who served overseas, the draft boards, the volunteers who raised funds, the Liberty Bonds committees, the Red Cross committees, the knitters, the Boy Scouts, the War Boards—all working to support our troops. At the end of the book is the United States Chronology of the War's events, from April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918.

Trench Foot

Can you imagine how important a clean pair of dry socks could be? World War I was fought in trenches all over Germany and France. Airplanes were just beginning to be used in air battles. At the front lines, battle tactics relied on building incredible networks of trenches for movement and cover. Unfortunately these trenches filled with water during long, soaking rainfalls. *Trench foot* was real. Disease, sores, infection, lack of healing was painful and crippling. Untreated *trench foot* would lead to gangrene and amputation. Back at home, moms, wives and girlfriends were knitting scarves, sweaters, helmet liners---and socks! The availability of a rotary sock knitting machines brought together groups of women to spend their afternoons knitting

"The Public Archives Commission ended in 1917 as Congress sought to balance its budget and pay for the Great War. Thus the War Records Commission Act of 1919 was passed to continue and broaden the work of the Public Archives Commission, requiring a war records commission for every county to organize records related to veterans of the Spanish-American, Philippine, and Great wars. Again, the money was project based and flowed through the Minnesota Historical Society. Still more historical organizations started to preserve their local history and make it accessible." David Grahitske Minnesota Historical Society

"tube" socks as fast as possible. Others knit at home by hand. Waseca County's "champion" knitters were Mrs. Amelia Everett, Mrs. Sophie Johnson; and Mrs. Mary Day who held the record knitting 125 pairs of socks.

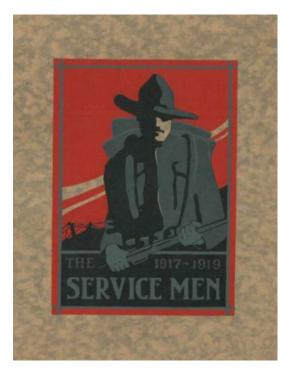
"In America, the circular sock knitting machine gained in popularity during World War I. In 1917, a special commission of the Red Cross cabled National Headquarters from the war zone in France, requesting hospital supplies and knitted goods. They

begged for a million and a half each of knitted mufflers, sweaters, socks, and wristlets. The Red Cross responded by providing the necessary coordination for the purchase and distribution of wool and military patterns to knitters. When America entered the war, Mabel Boardman, the only woman member of the Red Cross Central Commission, realized that hand knitters were facing an enormous task. Novice knitters were encouraged to master the machines, at Red Cross headquarters, and knit a perfect pair of socks in 40 minutes." *Source: website: The Guild of Machine Knitters*

The Great Flu Epidemic

Many soldiers were killed in action, but also many died of pneumonia. This was also the time of the great flu pandemic that spread all over the world killing millions. It is said that the worldwide influenza





pandemic of 1917-1919 killed more people than the Bubonic Plague during the Middle Ages in Europe. However, from Waseca County more than 750 young men joined in the service to our country. Twentyone died---8 killed in action and 13 died from flu and/or pneumonia.

War Records Commissions

In the United States just after WWI ended, Congress initiated the work to record war records for all time realizing that Civil War veterans and Spanish-American War veterans were dying—their service unrecorded. Congress sought to require every county to form a war records commission to preserve this information, and to produce these county war records books. Waseca County and about 40 other Minnesota counties followed through to be sure that all those who fought and served their country would be remembered for all time. The creation of these publications quickly led to the call for all volunteers and fundraising through the Minnesota Historical Society. This effort created groups of patriotic historians and volunteers who in publishing these books, stayed togeth-

> er to form many more historical societies all over the state. Ultimately more than 40 different county WWI books were published, and many county and local historical organizations were organized as a result. Today there are well over 87 county, city, and other local historical societies in Minnesota. We are grateful that Waseca County Historical Society is one of them; existing as a valuable resource to its community and guided by the State Historic Preservation guidelines that will maintain continued record-keeping and remembrance for all those who served in the Armed Forces. Also thanks to the Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage grants program, the Waseca County memorial is currently undergoing restoration.

> In all World War I took an incredible toll of human life: 8.5 million deaths and 21 million wounded. (Breakdown among countries---Britain lost 750,000 soldiers; France lost 1,400,000; Belgium lost 50,000; Italy lost 600,000; Russia lost 1,700,000; America lost 116,000; and Germany lost 2,000,000; Austria-Hungary lost 1,200,000; Turkey lost 325,000; Bulgaria lost 100,000. (Statistics Source: Modern World History website)

George Leonard Herter The Man and the Myth



Very shortly we will be mounting the third and final exhibit about Herter's, the beloved, controversial, first ever of its kind, home grown business that put Waseca, Minnesota on the map over 75 years ago. The original store in Waseca was located on South State Street. It was the one with the stuffed polar bear near the entrance. It was the store

across from the small airport strip where sportsmen from all over the region and country came to buy new hunting, fishing and camping equipment. Herter's was the best because George Herter said so! He invented, he copied, he enhanced, he boasted, he took orders before items were made. He told stories. He told "fabrications". He sold an outdoor world of adventure to young and old.

That was George Leonard Herter, born in 1911 in Waseca. By the time he graduated from Waseca Central High School in 1928, he was already





making and selling fly fishing lures to his friends. His

dreams were already coming true, of catching the big ones, of finding adventure out in the world and bringing it home.

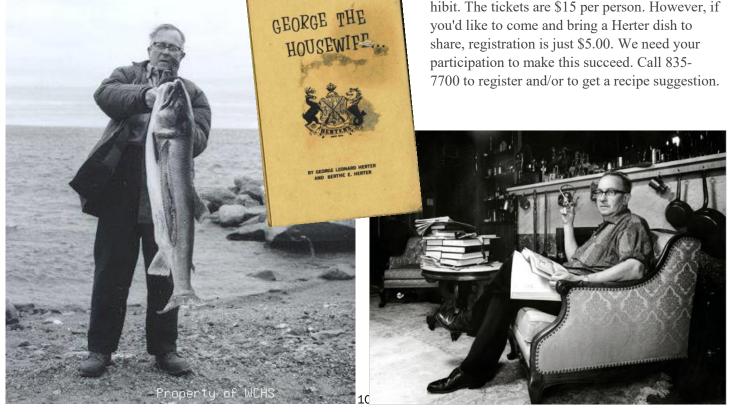
In July we will continue with the man and the myth--George Leonard Herter. This exhibit will focus on Herter's life, family roots, his outrageous books, and original art from his archives of self-published works. We will announce the opening date in July. Our past exhibits dis-



played a re-creation of the store with its taxidermy in 2014, the essential collections of duck decoys, fishing lures, and catalogs in 2015. Now in 2016, it's about George.

In the meantime, we have planned a special event here at the museum-the Herter Recipe Potluck Sampler, July 29, 5-8 p.m. We call it a

sampler because you'll be able to have a taste of many Herter's recipes while you browse the exhibit. The tickets are \$15 per person. However, if participation to make this succeed. Call 835-7700 to register and/or to get a recipe suggestion.



Thanks to these generous people!

From March 9 to May 25, 2016-

These are quarterly new/renewed members, donations, acknowledgements. Our Annual Report lists all members. Most of our members are Minnesota residents, but many live elsewhere!

New Members

Joecks, Becky Lohmann, Velma (WI) Sheehan, Aaron (MD) Haag, Kit Suek, Peter and Teresa Patton, Nancy (FL) Laas, Julia (MN) Brown, James and Debra (HI) Wiitanen, Heidi

Renewing Members

Walker, Roberta and Roger Taylor, Gary and Linda Witt. Norma Nelson, John Velett, Laurie Yamazaki, Stella (Japan) Sobrack, Shirley Hovelsrud. Susan Harter, Lorraine Miller, Lorraine Boyce, Bruce and Sally Takala Francis, Carol and Mike Wilkus. Marilvn Hering, Bruce Born, Rodney Purcell. Ron and Pat Yamada, Susan (NY) Lucas, Chuck Meyer, Clark DonCarlos, Diane (OH) Overland, Jackie Forrest, Dan Lundquist, Jean Carlson, Gladys Hunter, Jan Galvin, Carroll and Grace Burger, Carrie (CT) Ryan, Thomas (CA) Johnson, Dave Rohde, Laura Miller, Jean Wobschall, Carol Wuger, Patricia Gray, Mark and Janet Bentley, Bethel Tuttle, Deb Allen, Sharon Mann, Dennis (IA) Weed, AI (MT)

<u>Sustaining Members</u> Suek, Peter and Teresa Purcell, Ron and Pat

Memorials

In memory of Jeanne Welna by Donna Fostveit In memory of Katie Zika by Dave and Melissa Dunn In memory of Elizabeth Moen by Becky Joecks In memory of Lucille Below by Dale and Judy Joecks by Donna Fostveit In memory of Lawrence Clemons by Donna Fostveit by Neta Oelke In memory of Richard Will by Donna Fostveit by Rick and Sheila Morris by Henry and Phyllis Lewer In memory of Donald Lewer by Henry and Phyllis Lewer by Jeanette Rosenthal In memory of Burton Anderson by Burton Anderson family by Mary Jane and Bruce Stauffer In memory of Ruth Schoenfeld by Rick and Sheila Morris In memory of Michael Fowler by Jim and Elaine Fox In memory of Margaret McNeil by Sheila Morris In memory of Leta Clemons by Donna Fostveit In memory of Kermit Kalke by Donna Fostveit In memory of Omar Hoversten by Pearl Hoversten In memory of Audrey "Bug" Schmidt

by Donna Fostveit

Donations

Anne Kastner Anonymous Waseca Area Retired Educations Diane Beckmann and Thrivent Choice Match Donations Roger and Jeanette Groskreutz

Special Gifts

Henry and Phyllis Lewer—\$20,000 To establish the "Bailey-Lewer Library Maintenance Fund"

Appropriations

Otisco Township, \$400 Freedom Township, \$150 Byron Township, \$250

Grants Received

Small Legacy Grant—\$9,378 for Digital Microfilm Reader/Printer

WAF/Paul & Sue Rosenau Legacy of Angels Fund grant—\$1,485 for commercial size dehumidifier

Volunteers

Karl Jones—Installed exhibit case lighting; adjusted jukebox

Rick Morris-recycling/heavy lifting

George Kastelle—Built display stand for WWI book

Dave Dunn—"everything else"

Judy Joecks, Clark Meyer, and Marty Tesch—for sharing their Waldorf history













Waseca County Historical Society 315 2nd Avenue N.E. | P.O. Box 314 Waseca, MN 56093

RETURN SERVICE



NON-PROFIT U.S. POSTAGE PAID WASECA, MN 56093 PERMIT 41

Membership Renewal Date



Adult Coloring:

Remember these promotional line art posters of Waseca? Why don't you color one? Available at the **Museum Shop** \$3.

