

**Waseca  
County  
History  
Center**

# History Notes

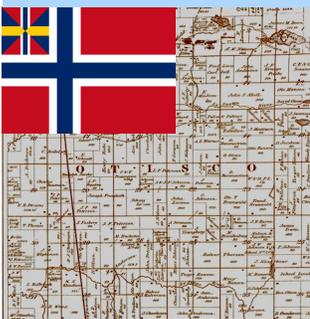
[www.historical.waseca.mn.us](http://www.historical.waseca.mn.us)

315 NE 2nd Avenue Waseca MN 56093

507.835.7700



**What's Inside: My Grandmother's "Tine" All The Way From Norway**



**Upcoming Events:**  
**May: Great Stuff Garage Sale**  
**July: Used Book Sale**

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

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**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, Administrative Assistant  
amandl@historical.waseca.mn.us

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

**SPRING HOURS**

**Museum**

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

**Bailey-Lewer Library Research**

Open Tuesdays and Fridays, 9-5

**Traveling?**

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



*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.*



**From the Executive Director**

Joan Mooney

Dear Members,

Once again, I hope this letter finds everyone well. What a difference sunshine, warmer temps and longer days make. The longer we have been suspended in COVID-19 mode, the harder it has been to keep motivated, especially with programming and event planning. And then the sun came out! It's light out when we come to work and when we leave for home after work! The birds are getting noisy again. Oh, yes, and the vaccine! There is light at the end of the tunnel.

As soon as temps rise and the sun shines the staff really get busy. We've been answering a great many research questions by phone, email and Facebook. Folks are also stopping by, some just to say hello, some come in the door with "I've never been here before"! Many are bringing in artifact donations. People are also enjoying the online access to our database and searching the collection, indexes of county records and newspapers. The favorite by far is our photograph collection. We have been reaching out to parents and the schools asking them to remember us as a resource during this long pandemic season. Kudos to Pauline and Amanda for keeping our Facebook page full of interesting images and stories. Amanda also continues to work on the membership, tracking the expired and adding the new and renewals. Our membership is currently at 338 and holding. Pauline is busy with processing the artifact donations. Virginia is handling research requests and general inquiries.

**Hofmann Apiaries**

Larry and Jan Hofmann have sold their house in Minneapolis and will begin renovating the farmhouse. They plan to be entirely moved by the end of August. We are planning an Open House later in the summer for all who have helped, donated and supported this project. We are all very happy to be moving forward. We will be adding more native plants to the gardens. Larry has contracted with a Janesville beekeeper so bees will be on the premises for the season.

Waseca's Historic Downtown District will be celebrated this summer. Wonderful new banners are now in place throughout the district. Thank you to Andrew Breck for the wonderful design! I will be working with building owners on paperwork needed for the permitting process for proposed changes to their buildings. We also are considering the implementation of the Main Street MN program for Waseca.

I would like to acknowledge Janesville and New Richland for the preservation of their main streets. We are fortunate to have most of our main streets intact and businesses in place to serve our communities. I encourage shopping local as doing so supports our local economy and keeps our downtowns interesting. Thank you!

**A Special Note on the passing of Henry and Phyllis Lewer.**

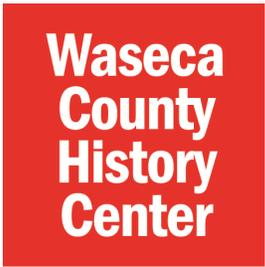


We were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Henry's wife Phyllis just a few weeks ago. This week we received a phone call from the family with the news of Henry's passing.

Our hearts and sympathies go out to his son Henry Jr., daughter Christine and spouses and his wonderful grandchildren.

Henry and Phyllis leave us a family legacy. The Bailey/Lewer Research Library is where Henry grew up. The house was donated to WCHS by the family in 1991. Their generosity and kindness lives on.

We will miss you.





## My Grandmother Pauline Pedersdatter Garsjo Haug's "Tine" (tee-nah) All the way from Norway to Otisco Township

by Pauline Haug Fenelon

*All over Scandinavia the hand crafted bentwood container called the "tine" has served in a variety of ways: as a food storage box, a lunch pail, a sewing supply box, a characteristic part of the luggage of the peasant traders, a travel box ("carry-on"), etc. Tines mostly shared a common design in the first half of the nineteenth century being medium to large oval, lidded boxes, some having a great variety of trim and décor.*

*Tines were mostly constructed from thin panels of birch wood, which were soaked and bent into oval shapes. They were then fastened together with birch bark roots or metal strapping. The bottom boards were attached to the frame with wooden pegs or small tacks. Most of the time, they had wooden, leather, cord or iron handles. The boxes were often decorated with folk art designs or burnt designs. Many were just left plain. Dates and the initials of the owner were often inscribed on them.*

*Physical characteristics: Name: Pauline's tine. Material: wood, metal, textile, paper. Size: (a) Box. 12 1/2" x 17" x 13" high. (b) Lid. 12 1/2" x 17" with a 1- 1/2" extended handle x 1/4" thick. Description: black stained birch bentwood container with hand carved extensions at both ends that fit into the notched lid; remnants of cord handles extend from each end; the lid is topped with a center bar and an open hand grip that can be used to lift the lid from the box; the ends are notched to accept the box extensions for a tighter seal. The interior of the box is lined with paper which is showing age deterioration of its 150 years. Many repairs and patches have been made.*



### Coming to America in 1884:

The 21-year old bride, Pauline Pedersdatter of Hurdal, Norway left her family farm home of Garsjo in 1884 with her new husband, Lauritz Gullickson Haug. The first leg of their emigration would take them overland to Christiania (Oslo) where they would board the feeder ship headed for Hull, England. Pauline carried with her a tine box she had packed with items she hoped would help sustain her until their destination arrival which would be at least 3 – 4 weeks. In Hull, the young couple rested for a short time in the railway station before climbing aboard another train that took them to Liverpool. There, the steamer, "The Illinois" awaited them. Now the long voyage on the ocean began and ended two weeks later at the American Port of Philadelphia. The final phase of their trip began when they left the ship and made their way to the city's railroad station where they boarded a train headed west to far off Minnesota. The little tine box was never far from Pauline. I imagine it sitting next to her or on her lap during each new phase of the journey. Neither Pauline nor her little "tine" would ever see Norway again.



When they finally got off the train in Fillmore County, Minnesota in late October, they were welcomed to the destination by Norwegians who had left Hurdal in 1856 before either Lauritz or Pauline were even born. This original band of immigrants had formed a community in Fillmore County's Bloomfield Township. As more and more Hurdal people left, their destination became this southern Minnesota settlement where they knew they could find family, friends and neighbors who would make them feel

at home. In turn, the new immigrants could bring news of the families they had left behind 30 years ago.

Pauline and Lauritz stayed with this Bloomfield community until after their first child, Charlotte was born early in 1886. Not long after that they moved north to Waseca County where they eventually made their permanent home in Otisco Township. Five more children were born between 1888 and 1899: Joseph, Caleb, Thora, David and Ralph. The family farmed the land and became a part of the Lemond Pontoppidan Lutheran Church community a few miles north of their farm in Steele County.



Sometime after 1921, when their youngest son Ralph made the decision to stay on the farm and brought his new wife, Helen Johnson home to stay, Lauritz and Pauline moved from the farm into a small house in nearby New Richland where they lived for a few years until Pauline died in 1929 at age 65, ten years before her namesake and youngest grandchild was born.



This time, my grandmother left her tine behind in the old farmhouse. It still was a useful household item where it stood on a shelf in a second floor storage room and held cleaning rags. I remember my mom occasionally sending me to the "North Room" to find her a good rag in the old box. Not until many, many years later did I begin to know a little of the box's history.

When my dad, Pauline's son Ralph, retired from farming in 1975, he and my mom moved to New Richland. Before leaving, they held a household auction. By that time, I was a 35-year old woman living in a nearby town. When I spotted the old familiar tine on the auction table, I saw a note written by mother that she had placed inside the box:

"Norwegian sewing box (tine). Brought from Norway about 90 years ago [1884]". I claimed that box then and there and began to appreciate its meaning and history. I brought the box to Janesville where it is prominently displayed.

Another 30 years passed, and in 2005 I was finally able to travel to Norway and explore the places where my grandparents had lived. The home where Grandma Pauline and family lived is preserved as it was when she left. It has since been turned into a local museum serving as an example of 19<sup>th</sup> century roadside inns placed along well-traveled stagecoach roads.

Pauline's parents, my great-grandparents, Peder and Petrine Garsjo are noted as "The Last Innkeepers". On the same property there is also a work shed that I explored. As I walked into the crude workshop lined with shelving and antiques of the late 1800s, the first thing I spotted was a green tine box that was the exact twin of the one that sat in my house back in Minnesota! I decided that it had to be the work of the "last innkeeper", my great-grandfather, Peder Garsjo, and that he had also built the black tine his daughter carried with her to America.

Grandma Pauline's tine box is a tangible reminder to future generations of how our family came to be "Americans". It serves as a connection to our roots in Norway. It is symbolic of the hard decisions made to leave a way of life, family, friends and homes to make the journey, across a tempestuous ocean and into the unknown wilderness, halfway across a new continent to a small town in Minnesota. Perhaps you also have a family heirloom or photo that you could use to tell the story of your family's roots. Write that story down and future generations will thank you!



## First Quarter Contributions: December 16th, 2020 – March 23rd, 2021

Renewing Members	Donations	Memorials and Honorariums
Bliven, Mark	Amy Swain Hearing Centers	In memory of Shirley Ruedy Anderson
Bluhm, Jane and Robin	Bagne, Myrwood	By Donna Fostveit
Buesing, Orville	Beckmann, Scott and Diane	In memory of Helen Bagne
Britton, Valerie	Beckmann, Andrew	By Donna Fostveit
Bruesch, J. Carl	Berger, Doris	In memory of Muriel Bryant
Buum, Marty and Karen	Bluhm, Joan	By Donna Fostveit
Byrne, Robert	Born, Linda	In memory of Jack Fitzsimmons
Byron, Brenda	Buland, Eric	By Donna Fostveit and Nancy Tollefson
Carpenter, Michael	Chaffin, Robert and Lois	In memory of Boyd Fuller
Cervenka, Robert	Dietz, Mary	By Sherry Jones, Eva Downs and Max Lande
Dietz, Mary	Dobberstein, Gary and Deb	In memory of Ludwig Fretham
Elsner, Arlene	Dunn, Dave and Melissa	By Donna Fostveit
Espe, Charles and Kathryn	Ewert, Margaret	In memory of Henrietta Gahler
Ewert, Margaret	Fitzsimmons, William and Sandra	By Nancy Tollefson
Fitzsimmons, William	Goehring, Pamela and Larry	In memory of Harvey E. Gardner
Giesen, Marjorie	Grant, Linda	By Mary Gardner Dietz
Gilomen, Carollea	Gruetzmacher, Bonnie	In memory of Delores Laurie Hill
Grant, Linda	Harguth, Dorothy	By Stella Yamazaki
Habeck, Bill	Hintz, Joanne	In memory of Barbara Hanf Gehloff
Halgren, Dawn	Ihrke, James and Mary	By Russ and Terry Ingram
Harguth, Dorothy	Kiesler, Barbara	In memory of David Hintz
Hoffman, Betty	Klinger, Robert and Gloria	By Joanne Hintz, Ron and Ruth Sommers, Joanne Ellison, Ellen Smith, Delores Nelson and Vernal Lind
Holmquist, Harlan	Kramer, Karen	In memory of Jim King
Holt, Margaret	Larson, Janette	By Joan Mooney
Jacobson, Robin Forrest	Madel Jr., R.P. and Mary Ann	In memory of Phyllis Lewer
Johnson, Michelle	McColley, Dallas and Marsha	By Sheila Morris, Donna Fostveit and Nancy Tollefson
Joyce, Ron	Miller, Eugene and Bonnie	In memory of Barbara Loken Clausen
Meyer, Justine	Miller, Juanita	By Donna Fostveit
Oftedahl, Kathleen	Nelson, Susan	In memory of Theresa Reese
Pascua, Mary	Nicolin, Jay and Nancy	By Dawn Halgren
Poehler, Roslyn	Peters, Jacqueline	In memory of Margaret Rosenthal
Reak, Bonnie	Raimann, Carol	By Gene and Kathleen Rosenthal
Roemhildt, Scott and Amy	Rathmann, Duane and Cheryl	In memory of Edward Sanders
Rosenthal, Gene and Kathleen	Roesler, Neil	By Stella Yamazaki
Rudolph, Marlon and Audrey	Rosenthal, Kathleen	In memory of Arlene Thoreson
Sheehan, Aaron	Singlestad, Scott and Vicky	By Donna Fostveit
Spies, Loy	Smith, Maureen	In memory of Duane Urch
Spies, Lynferd	Tollefson, Kathryn	By Stella Yamazaki
Sponberg, Jana Lee	Thrivent Choice Dollars	In memory of Dr. Don Welna
Tollefson, Nancy	Veit, Anita	By Carol Wobschall
Velett, Laurie	Waseca Chrysler Center	In honor of Ronald and Janet Johnson
Vogler, William	Waseca Music Co.	By Kathryn Tollefson
Walter, Bonnie	Welch, Janet	
Yamazaki, Stella	Wildgrube, Beverly	
	Wobschall, Carol	

# First Quarter Contributions Continued

## Appropriations

Blooming Grove All in One Fund  
Blooming Grove Township  
Freedom Township  
Janesville Township  
New Richland Township

## New Members

Benson, Mary  
Carter, Kathleen  
Finley, Joseph  
Flemming, Darrel and Linda  
Minske, Michael  
Roesler, Lawrence  
Smith, Trisha  
Werning, Jeanie  
Whitney, Robin  
Wright, Kristi  
Yarnell, Heather  
Zabinski, Mary Pat

## New/Renewing Sustainer Members

Buker, Barbara and Mark  
Clasen, James and Judy  
Engle, Diane  
Goehring, Pam and Larry  
Kahnke, Daniel  
Kramer, Robyn  
Pooley, Arlene  
Strain, Reid  
Streng, Gary

## WCHS Word Scramble

ROSHE TFIEH ITTECEVED TCOISYE  
YNMAOD YSTDU UBLC  
MSWNOE CISRAHTNI PCERMETNAE CESTYOI  
LOD LERESSTT ANIZNROIAOTG  
DDO LLWEOSF  
REBHAEK LGODE  
KELAEISD YUCRTNO UCBL  
ACASEW RCMEAINA OIGLNE  
WAACSE VFW OSTP  
EWSAAC ILNSO ULCB  
AAWSCE ESRINO SZNECITI ENECTR  
AWESAC RAST LNCUIOC  
OBY SCOUTS OF MIARCEA  
LGRI OUSSTC FO AMACIRE  
CESAWA OUTCNY H4

**We are currently collecting  
used books for the  
2021 Used Book Sale.  
Schedule a Hodgson Hall  
drop off time.**

## 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](http://www.thrivent.com)

**Pauline Fenelon**

Artifact & Library Curator



**Jan Hunter**

Research & Genealogy



**Virginia McCarthy**

Research & Genealogy



**Amanda Larkin**

Admin. Assistant



**Word Scramble Answers:** Horse Thief Detective Society, Monday Study Club, Women's Christian Temperance Society, Old Settlers Organization, Odd Fellows, Rebekah Lodge, Lakeside Country Club, Waseca American Legion, Waseca VFW Post, Waseca Lions Club, Waseca Senior Citizens Center, Waseca Star Council, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of America, Waseca County 4H

# New to the WCHS Collection

One of the most exciting parts of working at WCHS is getting to see all of the donations that come in. We are grateful for every donation that is made and the history we get to learn from the people of Waseca County.



Self Portrait and Still Life  
donated by New Richland Artist  
Bernie Anderson



Three Legged Stool and  
Immigrant Trunk  
Donated by Janette Seljeskog  
Byrne



## Meet Our Intern Alex Kehler

Alex is a spending the last quarter of her History degree at MSU interning with us at WCHS!

Alex is busy scanning and cataloging early church records of St. John's Lutheran and St. Paul's Lutheran churches of Vivian Township.

Thank you to Dale Groskreutz for bringing the records to us, and Thank you to Alex for the excellent work. We love having you!



**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Membership Renewal Date



## **Good Stuff Garage Sale**

WCHS is accepting quality donated furniture or other quality items for this sale. Please contact Amanda (507) 835-7700 for more information.

### **Funds raised benefit WCHS.**

We are accepting used books for the **Used Books Sale** to be held during the Waseca County Fair 2021. Call to arrange a donation drop off at Hodgson Hall.

**PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE DONATIONS AT  
HODGSON HALL without contacting WCHS first.**