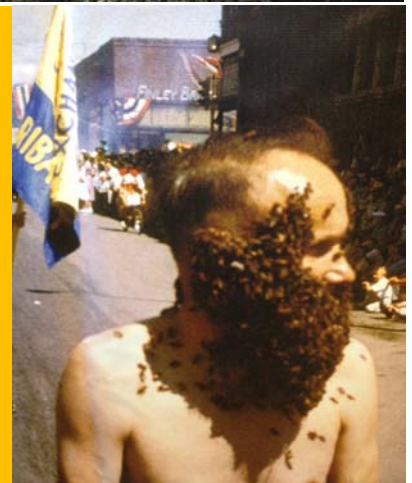




ON THE COVER: *Did you ever see the amazing Charlie Hofmann and his “bee” beard? Read the story of the Hofmann Honey Farm on page 4. Above: The farm’s new honey house in 1925. Inset: A view from inside the wax house last month.*

INSIDE: WCHS gets a Lift and a Gift / The Hofmann Honey Farm / Earlier date for Chautauqua, June 30, bring your harmonica / Peg Meier comes for lunch / Township support grows / Girl Scouts, come to Hodgson Hall at the Fair, July 11-15



History Notes is a publication of the Waseca County Historical Society ©2012
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 314, Waseca, MN 56093
Street Address: 315 Second Avenue N.E.
Phone: 507-835-7700, Fax: 507-835-7811

www.historical.waseca.mn.us

WCHS 2012 Board of Directors:

Jim King, President
Don Zwach, Vice-President
Jim Tippy, Secretary
Tom Piche, Treasurer
Rev. Charles Espe
Henry Lewer
Neta Oelke
David Pope
Jerry Rutledge
Gary Streng
Audra Boyer
Rod Searle, Ex Officio
Don Wynnemer, Ex Officio
Jim Peterson, County Commission
Al Rose, City Council

Staff:

Joan Mooney, Co-Director/Programs & Research
program@historical.waseca.mn.us
Sheila Morris, Co-Director/Development & Exhibits
photo@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
Darolyn Juberien, Bookkeeper
account@historical.waseca.mn.us

WCHS HOURS:

Museum, Research Library & Gift Shop
Closed Mondays, Open Tuesdays-Fridays, 9-5

During the summer, the Bailey-Lewer Genealogy Library will also be open on Thursday evenings, 6-8 p.m.



Made possible by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the vote of Minnesotans on November 4, 2008. Administered by the Minnesota Historical Society.

Events Calendar

Visit: www.historical.waseca.mn.us

Follow: www.twitter.com/wasecahistory

Like: www.facebook.com/wasecacountyhistoricalsociety

May 24: WCHS Spring Luncheon-Lecture Series—Peg Meier, StarTrib Journalist and Author, “Through No Fault of My Own: A Girl’s Diary of Life on Summit Avenue in the Jazz Age.” It’s about the young life of Coco Irvine who grew up in the house that became the Minnesota Governor’s Mansion on Summit Avenue. Lunch at 12 noon-1 p.m. WCHS Members \$12, Non-members \$16

June: Installation of lift/mainfloor bathroom begins

June 13: WCHS Board Meeting

June 17: Janesville HayDaze Parade

June 30: Annual Chautauqua at Maplewood Park, 11-4, see information on page 6.

July : No board meeting.

July 7: New Richland Farm-City Days Parade

July 11-15: WCHS at the Waseca County Fair in Hodgson Hall; celebrating the Girl Scouts 2012 Centennial

August 3 & 4: Corn Stock at Farmamerica

August 4: Waseca Garden Walk

August 8: WCHS Board Meeting

August 21: Community Ed Tour to Governor’s Mansion

First National Bank supports WCHS

We’re proud to be the first “History Partner” in support of the Waseca County Historical Society. FNB has made a three-year pledge to help WCHS to continue to keep and interpret Waseca County history. First National Bank of Waseca, Ellendale and Hope also has a long history in Waseca County. We encourage the entire community to participate at WCHS events, visit their exhibits, explore family genealogy, and become members of an important part of our Waseca County culture and memory.

www.fnbwaseca.com

FIRST NATIONAL BANK
Waseca | Ellendale | Hope | Member FDIC



Dear Members . . .

It's April and what an unexpected spring this has been weather-wise and other-wise . . .

The weather in February was so warm and sloshy we had to cancel the Ice Harvest. Didn't want anyone falling through the ice. Then in March we received approval for a Legacy Grant to install a lift and mainfloor unisex bathroom to make the museum building ADA compliant. \$48,185. Bryan Paulsen Architects, Mankato, MN will design and supervise this work starting in June, to be completed before November 1. And on May 17 WCHS received a Waseca Area Foundation Family of Funds \$1,000 matching grant toward the project. Please excuse the construction mess necessary during the summer months. We will try to keep the Gift Shop and museum offices open as is possible. **The Bailey-Lewer Library will still be open, in fact the Library will be open on Thursday evenings, 6-8 p.m.** over the summer months. Come search your Family Tree!



Excellent March and April Luncheon-Lectures

Edgar Barens, the younger son of Mark Barens, who is a professional videographer, presented his 1989 film about his father. (Mark died suddenly in October 2011 due to fall in his home in Waseca.) Many family members and friends traveled from faraway to attend this wonderful tribute. Local friends learned more about Mark's life before coming to live in Waseca. It was a sell-out crowd that day.

Brad Zellar advocates storytelling of local history everywhere. The April Luncheon presented journalist/author Brad Zellar. Particularly interesting was the story behind the discovery of Irwin Norling's 10,000 photographs of mid-century Bloomington, MN. The Norling family had left them unidentified in the parking lot of the Bloomington Historical Society many years ago. They were stored in the basement, unprocessed, unnoticed until Zellar found them as he was looking for anything about the history of the suburb he used to visit with his family as a child growing up in Austin, MN. A tenacious investigator, he eventually also found Irwin Norling alive to meet with; but sadly missed the long conversation he had planned because Norling died a few days before their date to talk. That was just one of his stories about finding people and listening to their stories. Zellar said, "Every person, particularly an older person, is a walking library—that is on fire." That is why our local historical societies are so important. They will keep those stories alive. Volunteer and get out there and find the stories! Zellar brought copies of *Suburban World, the Norling Photos, The House of Choates* and *1968*, his most recent writings.

Author/journalist Peg Meier speaks on May 24

Many of you will remember Star Tribune columnist Peg Meier. She is a writer of history also, previously publishing her *Bring Warm Clothes* about Minnesota's winters. While researching in the MHS archives one day she found the enchanting diary of Coco Irvine, daughter of one of Minnesota's business tycoons.

It was Coco's family that built the mansion on Summit Avenue in St. Paul that would become the governor's mansion. Coco grew up in that house. Meier took the diary and elaborated it for a book, *Through No Fault of My Own, A Girl's Diary of Life on Summit Avenue in the Jazz Age*. As an adolescent in 1927 she was always getting into trouble, and "through no fault of her own" was her excuse.

Our Spring Luncheon-Lecture Series is made possible by a grant provided by the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.

Community Celebrations Ahead in 2013

The Waseca County Historical Society celebrates 75 years next year, and we are in the midst of a plan for year-long celebration, *stand by!* But we aren't the only organization celebrating . . .

- SROC-The Southern Research & Outreach Center celebrates its Centennial.
- Grace Lutheran Church celebrates 75 years.
- Waseca Area Foundation celebrates 25 years.
- And this summer 2012, Waseca County Girl Scouts will celebrate the National Girl Scouts Centennial by holding events and an exhibit of their history at Hodgson Hall during the Waseca County Fair, July 11-15.

Township Support is Great

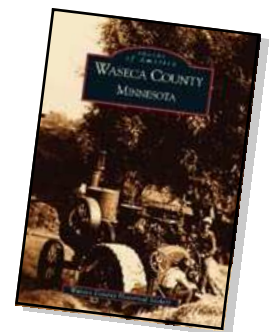
At this writing we have received support from 11 out of 12 township boards this year. We are especially gratified by this support as it demonstrates that WCHS is the museum of the entire county. We hope that many of you agree and will continue to be a part of historical success.

Farmamerica Award

The Farmamerica Board of Directors presented WCHS with the Volunteer of the Year/Organizations Award at their April 10 Appreciation Dinner. It was a great opportunity to celebrate our collaborations.

WCHS has an ebook

We were recently notified that our publication, *Images of America-Waseca County Minnesota*, first published in 2002, is now available in the iBookstore for purchase and use on your ipad or iphone. The cost is \$12.99 and can be downloaded to your ipad or iphone through the iBooks app. If you would like to preview the book, email director@historical.waseca.mn.us, and request a promo code. In the meantime, here is the link:



<http://itunes.apple.com/us/book/isbn9781439630273>

And we'll see you at Chautauqua 2012 on June 30, and at the Waseca County Fair on July 11-15! —Sheila and Joan



Charlie Hofmann and the Honey Farm

Many of you knew Charlie Hofmann, the "Bee Man". And there are some of you still alive who witnessed Charlie Hofmann as the Janesville Centennial Parade grand marshal wearing a beard of thousands of bees! Here is an excerpt of the story written by his son Larry, of how the Hofmann family got into the bee business. Larry gleaned from Charlie's writings including Charlie's autobiography, *My Life*. For our purposes we are just publishing the part about Charlie and Ellen Hofmann and Charlie's parents, Emil and Clara. We invite you to read the entire Hofmann farm history (1873-present) on our website along with many more photographs. The Hofmann family has been here for four generations. It's a good Waseca County story.

THE HOFMANN APIARIES 1906–1935

By all accounts Emil Hofmann was a very bright, talented individual. He had an artistic bent, was very good with his hands, studied, was inventive, inquisitive and eager to find and try new methods and equipment to improve and grow his business. He was also, unfortunately, a bit of a spendthrift and was inclined to at times spend money with extravagance, especially on his business. Whenever he became interested in something it was his habit to devote whatever resources were necessary to fulfill the requirements of his interest. This meant that money that might have been saved or applied to debt often was not. However, this



approach served him and The Hofmann Apiaries well for many years. In about 1921 a large, concrete water reservoir was constructed to provide running water to both the house and the honey house. Improvements to the house were also undertaken that included a bathroom, an enclosed back porch, a small office, a wood- and coal-burning furnace, and enlarging the basement. As the business grew, so did the requirements to handle this growth. Two or three hired hands lived and worked at the farm full-time, boarding in an upstairs "hired men's room." In 1923 a major addition was made to the old hog barn honey house. Not only was the original structure remodeled, but a large, three-story addition was added that included a steam-heated warming room, an extracting room with modern equipment, one floor dedicated to storage, and a hand-operated elevator that serviced all three floors. It was a thoroughly modern building that drew attention both locally and nationally. In 1926 another building, a 20-by-40 foot "wax shed" was built to facilitate the rendering of wax. "Alsike continued to be the prime crop grown by farmers for many miles around, and for a period of over twenty years it reigned as the best cash crop the area had ever seen. Other clover hullers eventually began appearing on the scene, and our mail carrier claimed that one beautiful day in clover hulling season he stopped his one-horse sulky on a high hill and counted twenty-two hullers at work. When alsike clover was in full bloom it was also quite a sight to see the fields. Many townspeople made it a point to drive through the countryside on warm sunny evenings to see the fields and enjoy the perfumed air. A little before Alsike harvest began, seed company buyers took residence in the little hotel in Janesville and competed with each other to buy the seed. One time the

editor of the local paper printed an article saying that, for quite a period of time in the fall, more freight cars left Janesville than from the city of Mankato because of the many carloads of alsike clover seed being shipped."

Clearly, Emil was a pioneer in the practice of keeping bees, and though it is impossible to know for certain, at some point in these years Hofmann Apiaries was very likely the largest producer of Honey in Minnesota. One 1928 newspaper item described an upcoming meeting of beekeepers to be held at The Hofmann Apiaries. It detailed the speakers who included the editor of the national publication *American Bee Journal*, a former beekeeping specialist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, two University of Minnesota department heads, the state apiary inspector, and Emil. Of Emil the newspaper article stated: "E.L. Hofmann is one of the best, most successful and extensive beekeepers in the United States. His equipment is the best money can buy for efficient honey production. A visit to the home apiary of Mr. Hofmann alone will well repay anyone interested in honey production."

Things proceeded successfully as intended until misfortune set in beginning with the stock market crash in 1929. Emil had joined a successful Idaho-based honey producer's co-op. Six weeks before the crash he had shipped 50,000 pounds of honey to a warehouse in Minneapolis, which was the local collection point for the area. Now, all was in turmoil. Along with everything else the market for honey plummeted and prices dropped precipitously. The co-op managers tried but couldn't find enough buyers for their honey. Warehouse and storage fees chipped away at what remained of a dwindling profit. Then the dust bowl years of 1930–1934 set in. Honey and farm crops suffered severely. On December 30, 1930, in an effort to survive, Emil mortgaged everything he had with the Janesville State Bank, including the 50,000 pounds of honey at the Minneapolis warehouse. The Hofmanns managed to hang on for a time as during the next couple of years, despite the drought, the bees managed to find enough nectar to produce just enough honey to allow the family to survive.

The spring of 1933 was a repeat of 1931 and 1932: drought, wind and dust. Emil had been renting his land to a neighbor who wasn't doing a satisfactory job; he decided to work the land himself and turned the responsibility of the bees over to his son, Charles. By this time mortgage payments were in default and likely had been for quite some time. Conse-



Hofmann Apiaries, c. 1914 and Hofmann's first car parked on right.

quently, on July 17, 1933, the bank issued a foreclosure notice stating that all would be sold at auction at the end of the month. For whatever reason, no one showed up for the sale, so the bank formally declared ownership of everything. Emil was devastated. He had suffered bouts of depression in the past, and he now was experiencing the worst set-back imaginable. Everything he had worked for was lost. His only recourse was to throw himself into and at any kind of work he could find or invent. It seemed he was unable to relax, and exhaustion was the only condition that would force him to rest. Family, relatives and friends pleaded with him to take care of himself but to no avail. After months of this his normally good health weakened, he suffered a serious nervous and physical breakdown and was hospitalized. He developed pneumonia and severe jaundice and died on July 13, 1934, at age 59.

CHARLES AND ELLEN (HENDRICKS) HOFMANN: Charles was 26 and faced with a momentous decision: to take on the tremendous debt left by his father, or walk away and start a new life. It certainly would have been easier to walk away, and likely no one would have assigned blame, but in the end he chose to stay. He had his mother to consider, and he felt a moral and ethical responsibility to repay all his father's debts. The mortgage on the land was owned by an insurance company, and a race began to find financing before the insurance company could take possession of the farm. Eventually, with the help of an uncle who was an experienced businessman, a Federal Land Bank loan was secured and the farm was saved. Further negotiations with the bank in Janesville for the bee business and farm chattel eventually resulted in a satisfactory deal that added debt to the farm but saved the equipment with which to continue the operation. The total indebtedness amounted to a little over \$15,000.

Charles now took on his new responsibilities with serious resolve and vowed never to go into debt if he could possibly avoid it. He had never had to deal directly with the finances of the farm, but he was determined to not repeat the financial mistakes of his father. To that end he set up a system of bookkeeping that at the end of each year balanced nearly to the penny. The markets had found their new levels and had stabilized, but profit margins were slim. It was two and a half years before Charles was able to finally pay the first 500 dollars against the debt. It was, as he put it, "... Like trying to knock down a brick wall by tossing eggs at it."

In 1941 Charles married Ellen Hendricks from Fulda, Minnesota. They had four children: Laurence (Larry), Anne, Gregory and Mary Lynn.

With Charles' hard work, frugal spending habits, attention to detail and an absolute mastery in the practice of keeping bees, the business was saved. Hofmann Apiaries flourished and ultimately became successful and highly regarded with a reputation for excellence both in product and practice. Though it took a good many years Charles eventually paid all debts in full. He continued keeping bees and producing honey until 1985 when, at age 77, unable to consistently secure enough needed reliable help, he sold the business and retired. The new owner of the bees and equipment lived not far away and kept bees on the farm for several years, so that there were still bees on the place sometime into the 1990s. In 2002 Charles and Ellen elected to put 15 acres of the farm in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. One 5-acre plot was planted in deciduous trees, and another 10-acre section was planted in indigenous prairie grass and flowers. Those 15 acres, intended by Charles and Ellen to be part of the farm's legacy, will remain unchanged in perpetuity. Ellen and Charles continued to live on the farm and both were active until their deaths: Ellen on October 23, 2004, and Charles on December 15, 2009.

PRESENT DAY: In 2011 the four Hofmann children sold the arable portion of the land, 55 acres, to a close friend and neighbor. Two of the children, Larry and Mary Lynn, now own the remaining 45 acres and operate those acres as Hofmann Farm. They're determined to keep the farm in the family, and both are conscious and respectful of its history and heritage and are working to preserve as much of it as possible. Hofmann Farm is now being offered as a place of retreat to singles, couples, or small groups. Many people have already experienced the farm and are planning return visits. Organic gardening was practiced on the farm by Charles and Ellen for most of their lives, and this practice is now being revived by several interested parties. Promising negotiations are underway with a beekeeper who is interested in using the farm as a location for one of his beeyards. There is also hope that the honey house and wax shed might be preserved for their historical value. Plans are in the initial stages to return to the honey house some of the recently located extracting equipment Charles sold in 1985. At least one extractor had changed hands three times before it was found. Plans also include augmenting what can be found of Charles' equipment with other vintage equipment. The hope is to use the honey house as an exhibition facility and create a display of historical tools and equipment used in beekeeping and in the production of honey. It is thought that this unique and wonderful old building is the perfect place where people can visit to learn about honey bees, how honey is processed, and most importantly, to learn how significant honey bees are to humans and the environment.

For Larry Hofmann's complete article, including the earlier history about Valentine and Rosalia Hofmann, Emil and Clara Hofmann, and Alsike Clover, go to our website and click on the "Hofmann Honey Farm" link—www.historical.waseca.mn.us.

For more information about bee/honey production, visit: <http://www.nrdc.org/wildlife/animals/files/bees.pdf>

CHAUTAUQUA 2012

This year's Chautauqua will be held on Saturday, June 30, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. We will be welcoming back our Waseca area performers, **Shirley & Alvin Groskreutz, Amy Roemhildt, Magic Zach Madel, Al Batt, Vincent the Gypsy Horse, and Flat Tops & Fiddles** for your entertainment. Returning again is environmental artist, **Christopher Lutter-Gardella & Puppet Farm Arts** with a new recycled critter in tow; and the **Twin Cities Sacred Harp Singers**.

From the Twin Cities we'll welcome the **Everett Smithson Band** featuring **Kathy Smithson** on

vocals and accordion, and husband Everett, recognized as one of the Twin Cities most notable bluesmen! Everett's first band involvement was in 1982. In 1983 his experience playing at the Kingston Mines jam really turned him on to the blues after which he began a 15-year involvement with the "Alley Katz" playing throughout the Upper Midwest. Other notable band

members are **Phil Schmid** on guitar, **Jeremy Johnson** on drums and the ubiquitous **Bill Black** on standup bass. These guys have played nationally and internationally with big name acts such as Bo Diddley, Lynwood Slim, Big George Jackson, Gary Primich and many others.



SPECIAL HARMONICA WORKSHOP

2-2:30 p.m.

Blues for Kids teaches children of all ages the joy of Blues music, fulfilling one of the stated missions of the Minnesota Blues Society: "to provide learning opportunities related to this American-roots music genre." Blues for Kids workshops are scheduled through schools, community organizations, festivals and events. Workshops are custom designed to meet the needs of the audience



and can include guitar, harmonica, piano, vocals, or Blues history. Our most popular workshop provides kids with a **free harmonica and lesson**.



The Prairie Ecology Bus Center (PEBC)

is based in the southwestern Minnesota town of Lakefield. It is the home of the Prairie Schooler Ecology Bus, a state-of-the-art school, mobile scientific laboratory, and classroom designed to educate school children and adults about the environmental and natural sciences. The Ecology Bus is the only one of its kind in North America and is modeled after a similar bus and program in Sweden.

PEBC operates programs for pre-kindergarten through adult learners and offers classes and activities all year long. The PEBC staff work closely with teachers to ensure that all learning programs complement classroom curriculum and help students achieve Minnesota environmental education graduation standards.

The mission of the PEBC is to be a vehicle for understanding and appreciating the natural wonders in our own backyards. The following organizations sponsored our appearance at Chautauqua 2012:



From someone we hardly knew . . .

She Cared About Family and About Its History

Chicago donor Dorothy Moriarty remembers WCHS

On April 17 Joan brought in the mail from our funky mail box that keeps falling over or gets blown into the street. Earlier that morning it was gone from its perch on the museum steps. It had fallen behind the refuse bin on the other side of the stoop. Good thing it was returned to its spot where the mail was eventually delivered that day.

In an unassuming letter from lawyers in Chicago was a letter informing the Waseca County Historical Society that it was to receive a generous bequest from the estate of Dorothy Moriarty.

Moriarty was the niece of Frank and Barbara Goodspeed of Waseca, MN. Frank B. Goodspeed was the president of the WCHS Board in 1963, at the time when the Society was moving into its new building, the former Methodist Episcopal Church. We are told that Dorothy visited her aunt and uncle in Waseca, and knew first-hand how important WCHS was to them. Both of Frank's grandparents were early Waseca County settlers. One grandfather was James E. Child, who wrote the *History of Waseca County, 1854-1904* and taught Frank the newspaper business right out of high school. Frank's other grandfather was Henry Goodspeed, an early settler from Massachusetts. Frank's father, George Goodspeed served as Waseca's Sheriff, Mayor and City Alderman, and as a Minnesota Legislator.

Dorothy Moriarty was an educator, counselor, a best friend to many. She was extremely well-respected and loved by her community, which included Wright Community College in Chicago where Dorothy taught for 35 years.

We were told by her lifelong friend, Ruth Stewart, that Dorothy was 93 years old, but "didn't look it." She was still driving her Lexus this spring delivering *punshkis* (jelly doughnuts) to many friends and neighbors on Fat Tuesday. When she couldn't be reached by phone one day, friends opened her apartment to find she had fallen. At the hospital she was surrounded by nieces, nephews and friends when she died on March 23, 2012.

The thing is, we didn't know much about Dorothy, but we did know that she never forgot the Goodspeed devotion to Waseca County history. For many years she donated \$10,000 annually to the Frank and Barbara Goodspeed Memorial Endowment Fund which she had established with the Waseca



Dorothy Moriarty on her 93rd birthday

Area Foundation to benefit WCHS. This year we hadn't heard from Dorothy, and so we were thinking of her when this letter arrived. With every generous check she gave, we

followed up with a letter of thanks and lots of news about how WCHS was doing, what was happening, and what her donation meant to the Society. Her checks were usually accompanied with a brief handwritten note, but she never replied to our letters; and so we always wondered about this wonderful donor.

Now we know that she was a very happy and community-involved woman. She was educated and an educator. Her students, friends and neighbors loved her.

This generous bequest will affect WCHS members and visitors to WCHS for many years to come. Please come to visit the museum and learn more about the Goodspeed family history. There will be a Goodspeed exhibit showing the beautiful china, silver and photographs. The china was used at the first luncheons and openings in the *then new* museum in 1964. The Goodspeed family photographs can also be viewed online by WCHS members.



Barbara and Frank Goodspeed , c. 1940s



Newspaperman Frank Goodspeed at work in Chicago.

On June 13 the WCHS Board of Directors will decide about creating another endowment fund in the Waseca Area Foundation.

Preservation Efforts

City of Waseca Heritage Preservation Commission:

Les Tlougan,
Chair
 Ranae Schult
 Kim Johnson
 Jean Byron
 Joan Mooney
 Robin Terrell
 Patricia Masberg

The “Survey of Historic Buildings” is going to be presented on Tuesday, June 19 at 6 p.m. at the Waseca City Council work session. The survey presentation will be given by Thomas Zahn of Thomas R. Zahn & Associates. The area of focus is the City of Waseca downtown. The intensive commercial district survey includes architectural descriptions, building history and uses, photographs, condition analysis and compliance criteria with the National Register of Historic Places Secretary Standards.

This meeting is open to the public and everyone is welcome.

The HPC welcomes new member, Patty Masberg. Patty and her family are long-time Waseca residents and owners of Waseca Title Company. Patty has assisted the Waseca County Historical Society many times answering questions regarding who owned what and when. She is a great asset to the Commission and we are very happy she’s onboard.

North State Street, Waseca, Minnesota in 1955



We still have one opening on the Commission. If you like historic buildings, houses and landscapes, consider serving on the Waseca Heritage Preservation Commission. Call Ranae at City Hall, 835-9700, for an application.

Ward Shares Postcard Images

Earlier this spring, WCHS member and avid postcard collector Lisa Ward, gave WCHS permission to scan images from her Waseca County postcard and stereograph collection. This was very generous and significant, as many of the images were either unknown to WCHS or of better quality than the same photograph already in our collection.

Of particular note is the photograph of the **1873 Ward Opera House**, a good-quality, daylight view. The only previous image of the Ward Opera House in the WCHS photograph collection was of the night it burned down in 1910. Also known as Turner Hall, the Ward Opera House represents one of the earliest venues providing music, theater and culture to the new town of Waseca, MN. It was a place for artistic expression by its residents as well; built by W.G. Ward.

In all Lisa Ward is sharing nearly 200 images. They are part of WCHS’s Loaned Images Program. We utilize this program to enable people like Lisa Ward to share their images without giving up ownership of the actual photograph. She is giving WCHS permission to share and to use the image in exhibits, programs, and other interpretation as needed, and for all WCHS members to view online.



RIGHT: Ward Opera House in 1875, also known as Turner Hall.
 BELOW RIGHT: Ward Opera House burning, as noted in the July 29, 1910 *Waseca Herald*.



Waseca City Census - 1934 Continues

Last	First	Address	Age	Occupation	Own Home	Car	City
Schultz	Lloyd	602 2nd St SE	22	Laborer	No	No	Waseca
Schultz	Lucille	104 8th St SE	19	None	No	No	Waseca
Schultz	Lydia	104 8th St SE	30	None	No	No	Waseca
Schultz	Warren	525 3rd Ave	23	Laborer	No	Yes	Waseca
Schutt	Edward	1006 E Elm Ave	29	Merchant	No	Yes	Waseca
Schutt	Eva	1006 E Elm Ave	27	Housewife			Waseca
Schwartskogh Sr	Chas	606 S State St	65	Oil Station	No	No	Waseca
Schwartskogh Sr	Mrs. Chas	606 S State St	63	Housewife			Waseca
Schwartskogh Jr	Chas	606 S State St	25	Orchestra	No	Yes	Waseca
Schwartskogh	Mrs Chas.	606 S State St	25	Housewife			Waseca
Schwartskogh	Chas.	606 S State St	4	child			Waseca
Seashore	John	808 2nd Ave	43	Painter	No	Yes	Waseca
Seashore	Leona	808 2nd Ave	32	Housewife			Waseca
Seewald	Mrs. Augusta	401 4th Ave NE	66	Housewife	Yes	No	Waseca
Seewald	Leonard	120 2nd Ave NW	42	Mechanic	Yes	Yes	Waseca
Seewald	Louise	120 2nd Ave NW	42	Housewife			Waseca
Sell	Mrs. Amelia	281 9th Ave SE	93	Retired	Yes	No	Waseca
Sell	Amelia	281 9th Ave SE	59	Housework	No	No	Waseca
Senn	Judge Fred W.	1000 3rd Ave SE	48	Judge	No	Yes	Waseca
Senn	Ella	1000 3rd Ave SE	47	Housewife			Waseca
Senn	Martin	1000 3rd Ave SE	20	Student			Waseca
Senn	Burke	1000 3rd Ave SE	18	Student			Waseca
Senn	Richard	1000 3rd Ave SE	10	Student			Waseca
Senske	Ben	215 3rd Ave NE	47	Grocery	Yes	Yes	Waseca
Senske	Clara	215 3rd Ave NE	46	Housewife			Waseca
Senske	Margaret	215 3rd Ave NE	15	Student			Waseca
Senske	Charles	215 3rd Ave NE	8	Student			Waseca
Severin	Albert	508 4th Ave SE	35	Salesman	No	Yes	Waseca
Severin	Myrtle	508 4th Ave SE	35	Housewife			Waseca
Severin Jr	Albert	508 4th Ave SE	13	Student			Waseca
Severin	Ronald	508 4th Ave SE	11	Student			Waseca
Severin	Betty	508 4th Ave SE	8	Student			Waseca
Sexter	Lynn		26	Mgr. Cat.ToCat.	No	Yes	Waseca
Sexter	Esther		26	Housewife			Waseca
Sexter	James		4	Child			Waseca
Sexton	Leon		27	Collector	Yes	Yes	Waseca
Sexton	Emily		27	Housewife			Waseca
Sexton	Richard		2	Child			Waseca
Sexton	Eugene		9 Mo	Child			Waseca
Sheehan	Dennis	611 W Elm Ave	66	Farmer	Yes	No	Waseca
Sheehan	Malachi	611 W Elm Ave	77	Retired	No	No	Waseca
Sheehan	Mike	109 4th St SE	68	Boiler-washer	No	No	Waseca
Sheeran	Mrs. Agnes	600 W Elm Ave	43	Housewife	No	No	Waseca
Sheeran	Frank	600 W Elm Ave	16	None			Waseca
Sheeran	John	600 W Elm Ave	14	Student			Waseca
Sheeran	Leo	600 W Elm Ave	7	Student			Waseca
Sheeran	Donald	600 W Elm Ave	19	Laborer	No	No	Waseca
Sheeran	Norbert	600 W Elm Ave	21	Laborer	No	No	Waseca
Shields	Con	100 4th St	68	Salesman	Yes	Yes	Waseca
Shigley	Mrs. Audie	818 N State St	73	None	No	No	Waseca
Shigley	Emery	324 2nd St NW	42	Bottler	Yes	Yes	Waseca
Shigley	Lillian	324 2nd St NW	40	Housewife			Waseca
Shigley	Virta	324 2nd St NW	16	Student			Waseca
Shigley	Joyce	324 2nd St NW	10	Student			Waseca
Shigley	Jeanette	324 2nd St NW	5	Child			Waseca
Shigley	Marilyn	324 2nd St NW	4	Child			Waseca

Waseca City Census - 1934 Continues

Last	First	Address	Age	Occupation	Own Home	Car	City
Shortell	Henry	820 W Elm Ave	54	Car Inspector	Yes	Yes	Waseca
Shortell	Bessie	820 W Elm Ave	52	Housewife			Waseca
Shortell	Henry	820 W Elm Ave	10	Student			Waseca
Schulte	August	606 W Elm Ave	74	Machinist	Yes	Yes	Waseca
Schulte	Lena	606 W Elm Ave	71	Housewife			Waseca
Shumway	J.D.	519 3rd Ave	41	Jewelry	No	No	Waseca
Shumway	Marion	519 3rd Ave	35	Housewife			Waseca
Shumway	Charles	519 3rd Ave	15	Student			Waseca
Shumway	Averil	519 3rd Ave	13	Student			Waseca
Shumway	Janne	519 3rd Ave	12	Student			Waseca
Sievert	Alfred	120 6th Ave NW	34	Jeweler	No	Yes	Waseca
Siseros	Pedro	213 2nd St NW	41	Laborer	No	Yes	Waseca
Siseros	Veda	213 2nd St NW	42	Housewife			Waseca
Siseros	Josephine	213 2nd St NW	15	None			Waseca
Siseros	Bruna	213 2nd St NW	2	Child			Waseca
Sisson	Mrs. Emily	309 7th St SE	83	Retired	Yes	No	Waseca
Francis	Sister Jane	Sisters of St Francis					
	Sister Esther	Sisters of St Francis					
	Sister Assissi	Sisters of St Francis					
	Sister Mary Alice	Sisters of St Francis					
	Sister Sebastian	Sisters of St Francis					
	Sister Nicholas	Sisters of St Francis					
	Sister Finian	Sisters of St Francis					
	Sister Elias	Sisters of St Francis					
	Sister Janice	Sisters of St Francis					
	Sister Coleman	Sisters of St Francis					
Sjostrand	Eric	808 3rd Ave SE	50	Contractor	Yes	Yes	Waseca
Skiff	E.S.	411 11th St SE	85	None	No	No	Waseca
Skiff	Mrs. E.S.	411 11th St SE	74	Housewife			Waseca
Smith	Celia	504 4th St NE	57	Housemaid	No	No	Waseca
Smith	Charles	803 3rd Ave NE	67	Retired	Yes	Yes	Waseca
Smith	Clarence	215 E Elm Ave	49	Bottling Works	Yes	Yes	Waseca
Smith	Minnie	215 E Elm Ave	50	Housewife			Waseca
Smith	Glen	215 E Elm Ave	18	Student			Waseca
Smith	Maurine	215 E Elm Ave	16	Student			Waseca
Smith	June	215 E Elm Ave	7	Student			Waseca
Smith	David	200 S State St	45	Mgr Feed Mill	No	Yes	Waseca
Smith	Myrtle	200 S State St	42	Housewife			Waseca
Smith	Joan	200 S State St	8	Student			Waseca
Smith	Edward		53	Caretaker	No	No	Waseca
Smith	E.H.	117-119 N State St	74	Hotel	Yes	No	Waseca
Smith	Katherine	117-119 N State St	74	Housewife			Waseca
Smith	Leland	117-119 N State St	18	Student			Waseca
Smith	Ethel	101 3rd Ave NE	28	Hotel Mgr	No	No	Waseca
Smith	F.J.	101 3rd Ave NE	75	Restaurant	Yes	Yes	Waseca
Smith	Jessie	101 3rd Ave NE	54	Housewife			Waseca
Smith	Harvey	525 4th Ave NE	74	Retired	Yes	Yes	Waseca
Smith	Lyla	525 4th Ave NE	65	Housewife			Waseca

Thanks to Members, Donors & Volunteers!

As of January 1 to May 22, 2012
Our members are from all over the county and country! Newsletter space does not allow us to print the entire membership list. These are quarterly new and renewed memberships, donations and acknowledgements.

Our Lifetime Members

Allen, Mary
Britton, Joe & Marjorie
Brown Printing
Brown, Wayne "Bumps"
Brynildson, Gladys
Cooper, Gus
Corchran, Liz
Dahl, Robert M.
Fette, Leo J. & Shirley
First National Bank
Fitzsimmons, Francis M.
Fostveit, Donna
Gerding, Dr. James & Josephine
Gores, Marjorie L.
Haley, Sharon L.
Hecht, Sigi
Horner, Margaret
Johnson, Ronald J.
Markus, Richard
McCarthy, George B. & Jean M.
Moriarty, Dorothy
Oelke, Neta
Rethwill, W.H., Jr.
Roundbank
Rutledge, Jerry & Linda
Searle, Rod & Ruth
Sheeran, Betty & Bob
Smith, Keith & Wilda
Strand, Mel
Swenson, Virginia
Tippy, Jim & Moira
Wendland, Helen
Webber, Wendy
Wick, Bruce & Lorraine
Winegar, Sharlene & George
Wynnemer, Don & Margaret

Renewed Members

Aitken, Robert
Arvesen, Eileen
Baker, Dale
Balke, Sidonia
Battenfeld, Myra
Bentley, Bethel
Berger, Doris
Born, Larry & Linda
Byrne, Robert
Byron, Jean
Carlson, Arthur
Chaffin, Robert & Lois
Clasen, Joan
Corchran, Liz
Coyer, Gayle
Curran, Helen
Dosh, Millicent

Foels, Arlene
Ford, Carol
Forrest, Dan
Hasslen, Margaret
Hedstrom, Kristine
Holmen, Thomas
Hovelsrud, Susan
Judd, Pat
Kamm, Becky
Kastner, Bonnie
Kramer, Butch & Merila
Kurkoski, Thomas & Cherryl
Larson, Janette H.
Lechner, Karen
McColley, Dallas
Miller, Bethel
Miller, Jean
Peters, Jacqueline
Peterson, Todd
Rudolph, Janet
Ryan, Thomas & Mary
Schuster, Bonnie
State Bank of New Richland
Turnquist, Helen
Twisselman, Alan
Velett, Laurie
Waldron, Carolyn
Wuger, Patricia
Wynnemer, Jody
Zimprich, Shirley

New Sustaining Member

Chaffin, Robert & Lois
Peterson, Arlene

New Members

Aldrich, Donald
Bodine, Kelly
Born, Rodney
Brock, Cameron
Carlson, Brad & Colleen
Elsner, Nicholas
Farris, Lynn
Fitzloff, Lois
Fountain, Michael
Giesen, Marjorie E.
Goblirsch, Jennifer
Goldman, Julie
Gomberg, Diane
Grimm, Kathy
Hansen, Mary
Harward, Shannon
Hilleson, John
Hisey, Mi
Kahnke, Daniel
Kroeger, Lester
Lewer, Cindy
Linde, Evelyn
Miller, Michael
Miller, Michael
Moreno, Catherine
Peterson, Elizabeth
Roades, Kristine
Roberts, Doreen
Terrell, Robin

Tesch, Russel & Marie
Tesch, Sarah Normann
Mellen, Barbara
Wabner, David & Berni
Waseca Fire Dept.

Appropriations

Blooming Grove Township
All-in-One Fund (Dec 2011)
Vivian Township
Woodville Township
Iosco Township
New Richland Township
Freedom Township
Wilton Township
St. Mary Township
Alton Township
Byron Township
Otisco Township

Grants, Restricted

MHS Legacy Grant (Minnesota Historical and Cultural Program) for ADA Compliancy Project, **\$48,185**
Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council, **\$3,840**
Waseca Area Foundation Family of Funds, Toward ADA Compliancy project match, **\$1,000**

Grants, Unrestricted

Exxon-Mobil Foundation matching Don Wynnemer's volunteer hours, **\$2,500**

Donations, Unrestricted

Robert & Lois Chaffin
Rod & Ruth Searle
Karen Lechner & Dept 15, Itron
Used Book Sales
Robert Byrne
Anonymous
Gayle Coyer
Janesville Community Chest
McRaith Funeral Home

History Partner Pledges

First National Bank

Memorials, Restricted

In memory of Lavern Ewert
for the Jerry and Linda Rutledge Heritage Fund
by Margaret Sinn

In memory of Paul Sutter
for the Bailey-Lewer Library
by Robert & Janette Larson
by Ruthann & Don Miller
by Delency & JoAnn Sutlief

In memory of Jack Mooney

for the WCHS Endowment Fund
by Patrice Abbe

By Donald & Ruth Ann Miller
for the Bailey-Lewer Library

In memory of Nancy Krueger
In memory of Luella Selvik
In memory of Marian Lawson
In memory of Roxanne Bronson
In memory of George Cowles
In memory of Keith Graham
In memory of Eleanor Gifford
In honor of JoAnn & Delency
Sutlief's 50th Wedding Anniversary

Memorials, Unrestricted

In memory of Jeff Kapaun

by Donna Fostveit

In memory of Paul E. Sutter

by Donna Fostveit

In memory of Tony Slecta

by Donna Fostveit

In memory of Bob Mulcahey

by Jack & Jane Kolars

In memory of Dorothy Gigeay

by Donna Fostveit

by Constance Mahler

by Marianne Adelman

by Marjorie Giesen

by Marcia Schoeder

by Betty McIntire

In memory of Betty Bang

by Donna Fostveit

by Russ & Terri Ingram

by Lorraine Carlson

by Dick & Deb Chambers

In memory of Harold Schmidt

by Donna Fostveit

In memory of Dorothy Gigeay

by Dan and Kati Giesen

In memory of Jack Mooney

by Rod & Ruth Searle

In memory of Alvina Lewer

by Donna Fostveit

Volunteers & Thanks

YSL/WHS student, Elizabeth Swain
LDS Sisters & Elders
Joanne Hintz
Tom Hintz, Comsquared Systems, Inc.
for donation of office furniture
& equipment
Rod & Ruth Searle
Karl Jones
Jan Hunter
Jean Lundquist
Donna Fostveit



Waseca County Historical Society

315 2nd Avenue N.E. / P.O. Box 314, Waseca, MN 56093

www.historical.waseca.mn.us

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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



Membership Renewal Date



Waseca County Historical Society

The mission of the Waseca County Historical Society is to collect, preserve, interpret and disseminate the history of our county and citizens, and to create excitement and interest in our past.



Did you know that WCHS members are from all over the county, the U.S, in Asia, Canada and Europe, too? Membership is “friend-ing” and it tells us that you want WCHS to continue its mission and purpose. If you want to learn more about how WCHS is funded, we recently created a four-page brochure that explains it in narrative and as a pie chart. If you are interested in supporting WCHS, learn about the need to have *balanced* funding; that no one entity or area of support is less important than the other. We need support from each area to leverage the potential of support from the other areas. That’s what managing a non-profit is like. In business, you want the broadest customer base possible to stay in business. Here are some ways to support your Waseca County history:

Renew your membership. Ask your friends and neighbors to join WCHS. Advocate on behalf of WCHS to the county commission, city councils and township boards for support. Just mentioning your own support to officials lets them know that their constituency cares about WCHS. **Purchase Gift Memberships for family members. Contribute to Endowment Funds. Plan the gift of a bequest or other financial instrument to benefit your Waseca County history. Visit our new “Support” page on our website for more information, or just contact us, (507) 835-7700.**

Join or renew online: www.historical.waseca.mn.us

Look Forward to Our Past!