

Waseca County Historical Society

History Notes

Volume 37 Issue 1 March 2015



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

The Grange in Waseca County



ON THE COVER: *A St. Mary Township farmer cuts and binds grain, c. 1900, when wheat was still a principal crop in Waseca County.*

INSIDE: The Grange in Waseca County | Our Spring Luncheon Line-up | The Ultimate Herter's | History Featured in Local Businesses | The Museum Gets an Inside Paint Job | What is the Timeline Preview?

History Notes is a publication
of the Waseca County Historical Society
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P.O. Box 314, Waseca, MN 56093
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www.historical.waseca.mn.us

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

The Museum Shop



HERTER
T-SHIRTS \$15
with the young
George Herter
fishing
"You can't
write this
stuff!"

NEW! SHABBY-CHIC
WIRE CARD HOLDER \$18

NEW VINTAGE NOTECARDS \$4

SOPHIE'S FRIEND Le Chat, for baby \$15

Events

March 11 | WCHS Board Meeting

March 26 | 12-1, Luncheon-Lecture
Speaker: T.J. Malaskee, "The Grange in Minnesota"; site manager at the Kelley Farm, an MHS interpretive site. Malaskee is the director of the contemporary Grange movement, and is writing the history of Kelly.

April 8 | WCHS Board Meeting

April 23 | 12-1, Luncheon-Lecture
Speaker: Ed Barens presents his Oscar nominated documentary "Prison Terminal, the Last Days of Private Jack Hall."

May 13 | WCHS Board Meeting

May | TBA: Presentations of the Waseca County Timeline Preview

May 28 | 12-1, Luncheon-Lecture
Speaker: Larry Hofmann, presenting Charlie Hofmann's restored film on DVD, "The World of Bees," a very timely subject as the world grapples with declining bee populations that our food supply depends on.

June | "The Ultimate Herter's" exhibit

July 4 | ALL NEW—Chautauqua 2015 at Trowbridge Park, celebrating the 100-year anniversary of the recently restored Trowbridge Band Stand!

Check our website:

www.historical.waseca.mn.us



Spring is less than a month away, and we are into a year of continuing to fulfill our mission in a big way! We've spent the last two years upgrading our museum building with a restored bell tower, new roof, restored stain glass storm windows, new balcony lift, new main floor rest room, and, as of last week, newly painted interior walls including lead paint mitigation. In the Fall, we open with the brand-new Timeline exhibit on the balcony.

Guys! Check out the Lunch/ Lecture line-up---Waseca County Grange history in March, Oscar-nominated documentary film in April, and the "World of Bees" in May---thanks to the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council. Chautauqua 2015 is all new with a new site, new collaborations, and a newly-restored 100-year old Trowbridge Band Stand to celebrate. January is usually a quiet month, so we used the time to take down, clean up, fix, paint, and *plan*. . . .

MORE RESTORATION: On the heels of accomplishing much needed exterior restoration on the museum building, we were finally able to restore and paint the old interior walls that are nearly 100 years old, and contained lead paint. They may not look too different to you, if you haven't been looking closely, but all the chipping, cracking paint on the east and south walls, the alcove, and the crack on the balcony short wall have been dealt with. Two new support columns have been installed to add support for the many visitors we anticipate when the "Timeline & Uniques Stories of Waseca County" exhibit opens on the balcony in the Fall. Many thanks to Leigh, Tom, and Randy of **Goodrich Construction** for taking on the project; and to WCHS Board member **Brad Wendland, Associate Lumber Mart CEO**, for providing the paint.

We also want to thank new Board member, **Dave Zika**, for painting all of our main floor exhibit cases and artifact platforms. Again Associated Lumber Mart donated the paint.

Karl Jones, our volunteer from Champlin, MN has been working on our other cash register in the collection, as well as helping us light up all the main floor exhibit cases. We are always trying to improve our exhibit experiences.

Across the street at the Bailey-Lewer Research Library the floors need refinishing; and the space planning for additional and more efficient shelving is underway. We have about one-half of the funds needed, thanks to **Don and Margaret Wynnemer, Exxon-Mobil Foundation, Ole and Jean Lundquist, and Henry and Phyllis Lewer**. We are awaiting two grant decisions to go forward with this project.



PRESERVATION HAPPENINGS:

WCHS just received a \$10,000 grant to create an Interpretive Exhibit Plan for the **Hofmann Apiaries**. This will be its official name when it is accepted to the National Register of Historic Places. That final approval has been scheduled for the August SHPO meeting. Meanwhile, the planning to make the **Hofmann Apiaries** part of Waseca County's agricultural tourism, and a learning center for all ages to learn about our interdependence on bee culture goes on. Note: **Larry Hofmann** is our May 28 Luncheon speaker, presenting his father Charlie's newly restored film, "The World of Bees." This is awareness that we all need. *The world's food supply depends on pollination.* That's what bees do for us!

WCHS STRATEGIC PLANNING: The WCHS Board of Directors has begun the process of creating a new Strategic Plan. Twenty-four people were interviewed by an independent facilitator. Members of the WCHS Board, all of the staff, WCHS members and non-members from the county community, all discussed their ideas and perceptions of WCHS. They were men, women, members, non-members, teen-agers, seniors, millennials, and gen-xers, rural and town residents. Their comments will provide new strategies and actions to lead WCHS toward improving and earning continuing community support.

THE ULTIMATE HERTER'S, A COLLECTOR'S COLLECTION:

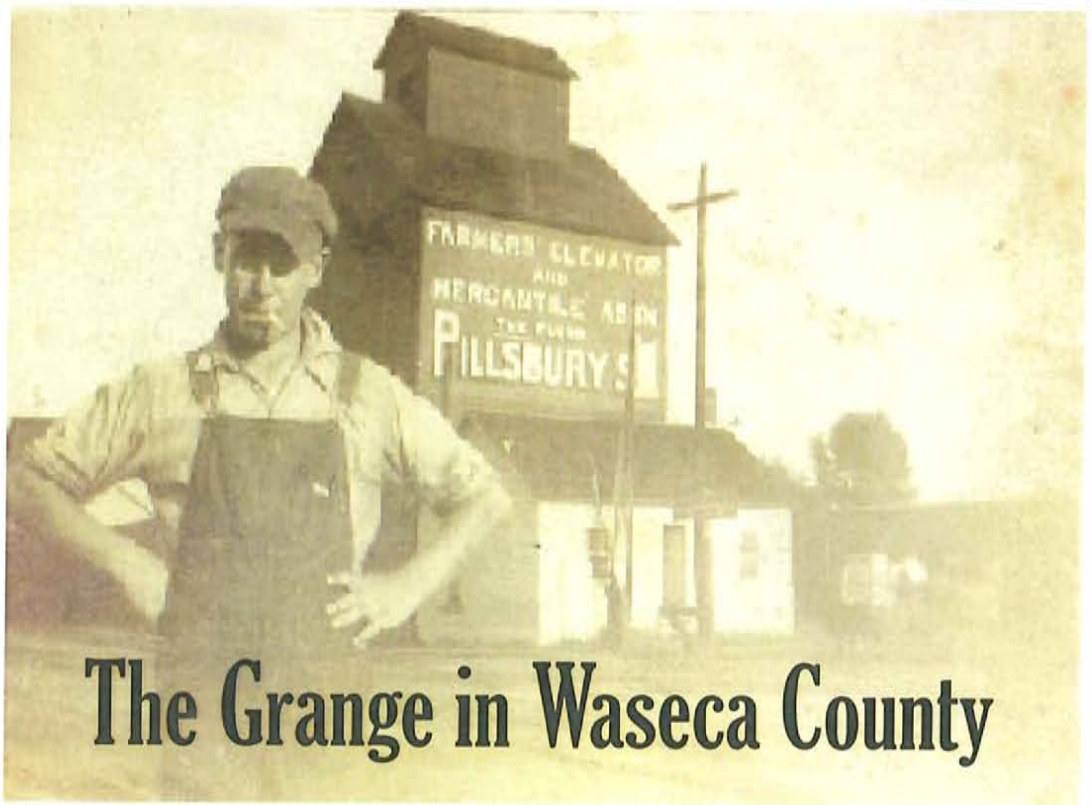
We decided some time ago that Herter's history was so large and unique to Waseca, that we couldn't possibly interpret and show all of it in one exhibit in one year. You are all still digesting and wondering what else is there? Why was Herter's so wildly popular? Why isn't it still here? How do we honor its impact on our community? *Collecting Herter's*, our first exhibit, that mimicked the original store on south State Street ended in December. Now we are bringing together the *Ultimate Herter's, a Collector's Collection*. Our friend and collaborator, Doug Lodermeier, is helping to coordinate this effort to open in June—the best of Herter's.

NEW RICHLAND AREA H.S. GETS A HOME:

The **New Richland Area Historical Society**, at long last, is getting a permanent home in the Washburn Hotel building. We congratulate them and the State Bank of New Richland that made this possible. And . . . Thanks to our many donors of this recent Annual Fund drive. You are the most generous and faithful of our WCHS history family! — *Sheila & Joan*



OLIVER HUDSON KELLEY
On Dec. 4, 1867, Kelley and six of his friends, mostly other government workers, established the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry, better known as the Grange. Kelley returned to Minnesota early in 1868. Two of his daughters returned to the farm in 1876 and managed it during the summers until 1885. The Kelleys owned the farm until 1901. *Minnesota History Magazine*, Fall 1967



The Grange in Waseca County

Our county history states the existence of communities, commodities and economics of Waseca County had much to do with the railroad. Towns strategically placed along the rail lines grew rapidly, where others disappeared. The first railroad in Waseca County was the east-west route. The Winona and St. Peter (W&StP) was built in 1867. By 1870 the line had reached Janesville and beyond to the west out of the county.

In 1877 a north-south route was built through the town of Waseca by the Minneapolis and St. Louis (M&StL) Railroad. The last line to be built in Waseca County was the Duluth, St. Cloud, Glencoe, and Mankato Railroad also known as the "Alphabet Road."

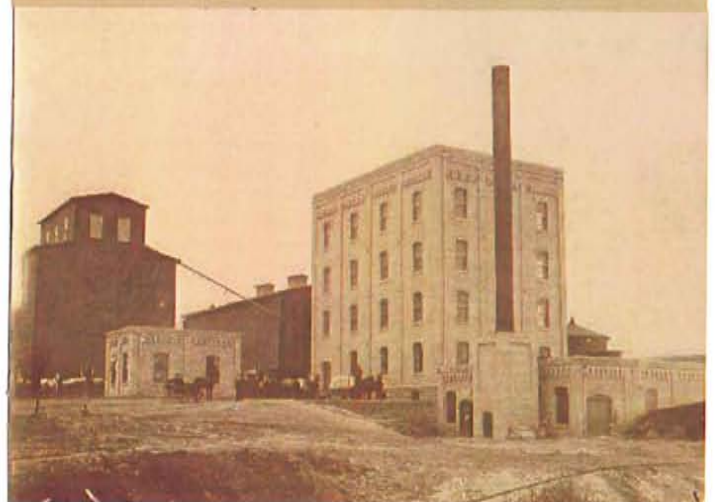
The railroads brought jobs and commerce. Farm produce and grain were the largest commodities shipped by freight trains out of Waseca County. Elevators were built to store grain-too abundant to ship all at once. Mills were established along the rails. The railroad brought new families and job opportunities. Farmers shipped produce to market. Industries and merchants received materials and merchandise by way of the railroad. Lumber was brought into Waseca for building homes, stores and businesses. The railroad indeed provided opportunity and sustainability to rural communities across Minnesota and the nation.

The Grange Movement

Wheat was once the major agricultural commodity in Waseca County. In the years 1867-68 prices for wheat rose and fell. In May wheat yielded the price of \$1.85 per bushel. By the end of 1868 the price of wheat had fallen to \$.78 per bushel. By 1870, it was apparent to the farmers that the railroads were getting

Above: Mill worker, Frank Rohde, c.

Right: EACO Mill, c. 1890, Buildings of the EACO flour mill, a view from the back. Also known by City Roller Mills, Everett & Aughenbaugh & Co., Proprietors, Manufacturers of White Rose and Waseca Flour brands, Waseca, Minnesota.



more for transporting the grain than the farmer was paid to grow it. The shippers and middlemen were taking more than their fair share of the unrealized profits due the farmers across the United States. Farmers organized throughout Waseca County, Minnesota and the United States demanding government regulation of the railroads.

The Patrons of Husbandry

In 1867 the federal government hired Minnesota farmer Oliver Hudson Kelley to study the agricultural conditions of the South. Farmers nationwide experienced hard times as they faced droughts, insects, and rising interest rates. Dependent on the railroads, farmers paid too much for transportation, farm equipment, and supplies, and received too little for what they produced. Kelley organized the National Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry. Each local group was called a Grange. Each Grange selected officers. The meetings brought news and education to farmers. The fraternal organization fostered relationships between farmers to promote the social as well as economic benefits of farming. By 1873, the Grangers established an alliance and politically only supported candidates representing the views of the farmer. In response to high storage fees charged by corporate elevators, Grangers set up stores and cooperative elevators run by agents who secured special prices for farmers.



ABOVE: New Richland EACO Mill workers, unidentified, c. 1915, stand behind filled flour sacks each printed with the EACO Flour Mill logo. The calendar in background reads, "L. George Company Sacks."

Photograph source: A collection of glass plate images were found in New Richland's Faust Theater and given to the New Richland Area Historical Society. These images were originally projected for theater audiences in the 1930s/1940s as entertainment before the feature film began. The images were scanned into the Waseca County Historical Society Collection, as well as the online digital library—Minnesota Reflections Collection in 2011 and 2012.

BELOW: New Richland EACO Mill, c. 1900



Waseca County Grangers

Blooming Grove Grange

I.D. Beaman
S.F. Wyman
Albert Remund
Patrick Haley
Wm. Habein

Toboso Grange

W.H. Gray
D. Riegle
James Bowe
F. Brossard
P. McDermott
William A. Erwin

Connor Grange

H.W.S. Hinckley
Wm. Runnels
W.D. Armstrong
M.F. Connor
Nicholas Fox

Hibernia Grange

M. Haley
Patrick Murray
H. Haley
John McWaide
James Jones

Pomona Grange

W.D. Armstrong
J.S. Abell
Joseph Minges
Adam Bishman
A.L. Warner
Sam Leslie

County Line Grange

C.E. Graham
S. Hydorn
D.D. Green
P. Vanderwarka
C.Bates

Alma City Grange

A. Keyes
S.C.L. Moore
S.C. Dow

Wilton Grange

Hugh Wilson
R.F. Stevens
J. Turncliff
Noah Lincoln
Geo. H. Woodbury

Hazel Dale Grange

Philo Woodruff
David Wood
M. Dewald
J.R. Davidson

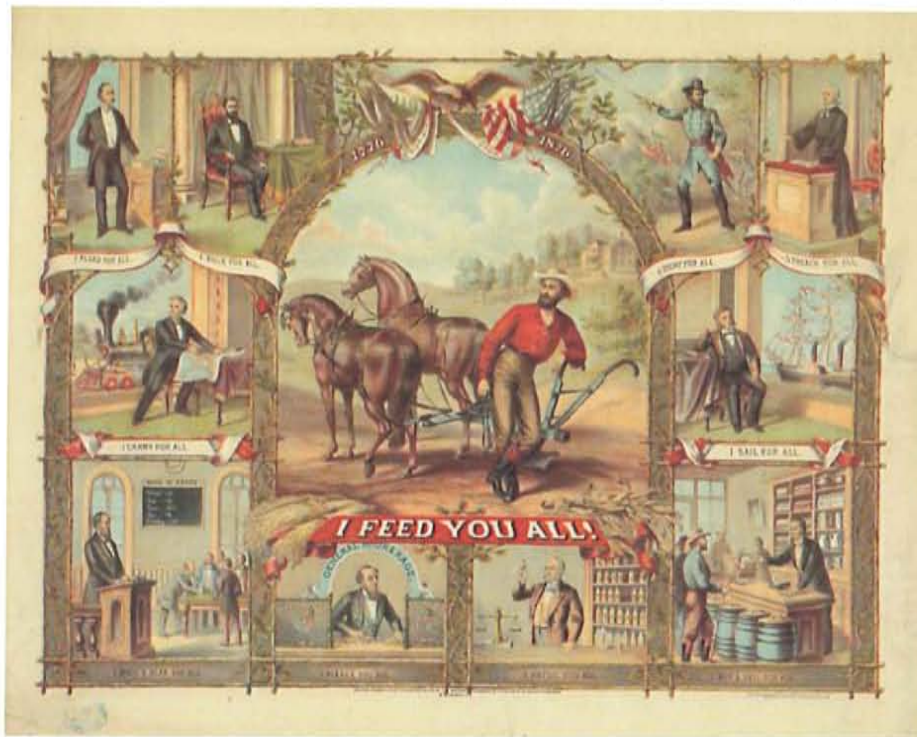
Grangers in Waseca County

According to Waseca journalist, James Child, by 1870 granges were established in almost every neighborhood in the county. The one in the city of Waseca seemed to be troubled from the start. It seems “men of small caliber, little intelligence and narrow jealousy” insisted that only “actual farmers, men who tilled the soil with their own hands should be members.” . . . “This narrow view of the organization drove from it much of the intelligence necessary to direct any movement successfully. The organization still lingers in some places, but its power for good is broken. By May

1873 Child states there were 10 granges in the county willing to work together for the greater good. The County Grange was established at this time. This group was “more for discussion and mutual instruction than for business.” The discussion and mutual instruction resulted in the creation of a corporation for the purchasing and handling of grain.

In October of 1874 the Waseca County Grange Association was incorporated. The location was the City of Waseca. The managers were: H.W.S. Hinkley, W.D. Armstrong, R.R. Howard, L.D. Smith, Hugh Wilson, Robert Earl, Samuel Hodgkins, and J. Penfield. Capital stock was fixed at \$2,000 at \$25 per share. Child states, “Its business was to erect or lease a grain warehouse, and to operate the same; to receive, handle, buy, ship, store and sell grain and farm products.” The location of the Grange Warehouse is not exactly known. Researchers Linda Taylor and Jan Hunter, after extensive research, concluded that our best guess would be on the south side of the current rail line at about 5th Street S.E. We know it was in operation by 1875 and doing quite well, until scandal com-

menced within the management. The Waseca County Grange Association had hired the wrong fellow as agent. R.R. Howard was charged with embezzling \$1,300 from the Association—due to his level of intelligence and his irresponsible use of alcohol. The *Minnesota Radical*, November 24, 1875—that by direction of the stockholders, the warehouse was rented to John Diederich for \$150 a year. The conclusion being, according to Child, “that farmers, as a rule, are not yet ready to stand by one another in a fight against organized monopoly.”



Although grange activity in Waseca County seem to dissipate by 1875, farmers continued their fight for fair treatment, which led to a call for a convention to be held in October 1875. A joint meeting of the old parties, both Democrats and Republicans resulted in severing ties with both parties after their state representatives repealed the only railroad law to ever protect the

farmer. This marked the beginning of the Waseca Reform Party.

To learn more about the grange movement in the state of Minnesota, and the new Oliver Hudson Kelley Grange, WCHS is proud to present author and newly elected master, T.J. Malaskee, speaking here on Thursday, March 26: “We are interested in modern sustainable farming practices, urban, suburban, and rural, as well as the educational, social, and community service aspects that we see as traditional cornerstones of the Grange.”

The Oliver Hudson Kelley Grange hopes to be presented their charter at the Minnesota State Grange Session on October 19-20, 2015 at the Kelley Farm, Elk River, MN. —END

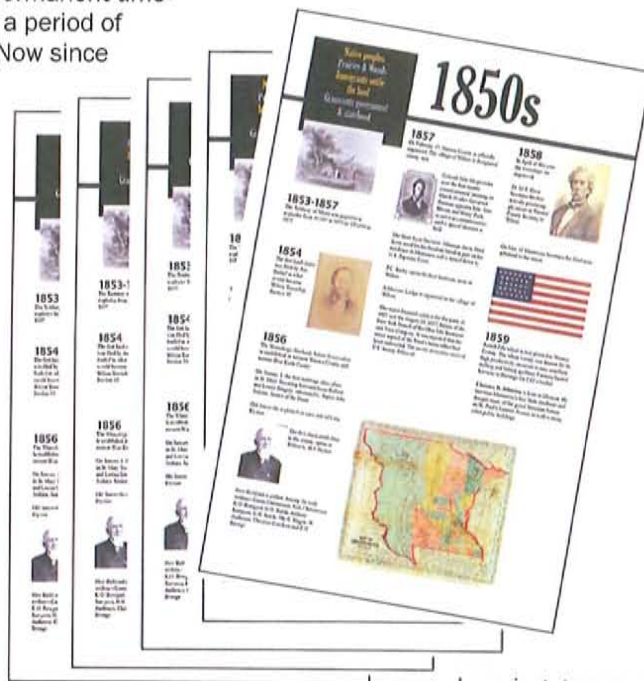
Where the Big Woods Met the Prairie

Waseca County Timeline & Unique Stories

A NEW PERMANENT EXHIBIT

First, the Timeline Preview

With a separate Legacy Small Grant, we were able to gain approval to produce a durable, transportable version of the permanent timeline panels to display for a period of “community comment”. Now since this project has been simmering for so many year, and there is a plethora of highlights through our 150+ year history, we felt it was important for members and residents to have an opportunity to comment on what highlights, people, places and events are included. You will see our best effort in making those thousands of decisions. Help us make this a truly inclusive, beautiful exhibit by participating as you are able.



The Timeline Preview will be printed on a vinyl product with grommets at the corners of each panel. The first Preview events will be scheduled at the museum in Waseca. Local WCHS members and residents will be invited to visit and review. Simple questionnaires will guide your thoughts with a few questions. If you have significant stories, artifacts and photos that could add to our county history, we want to know about it.



The cardboard life-size cut-out of Nettie Everett demonstrates the new balcony lift that makes our museum ADA compliant.



The Timeline Preview will then be moved to Janesville during HayDaze, and again the Janesville community will be able to view and comment as they gather for their great community event.

After Janesville, it will be moved to Waldorf, New Richland, and then at the County Fair in Hodgson Hall, July 15-19. That will end the Timeline Preview. Your comments will be considered and the revisions made so that the final Timeline panels can be installed in the Fall.

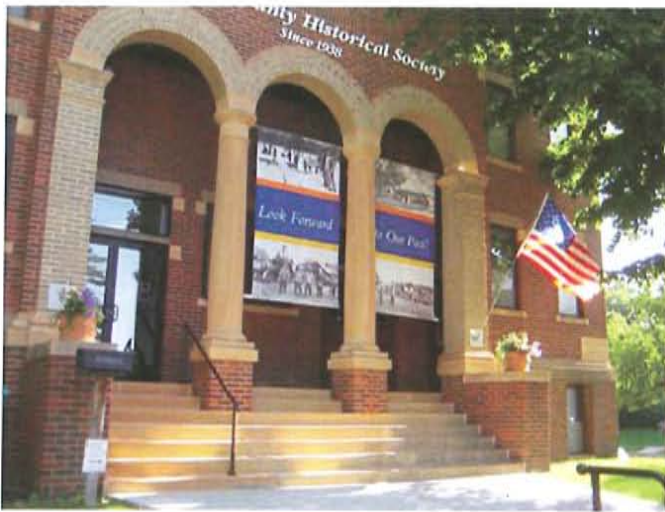
Then, the Timeline & Unique Stories Exhibit

The other large part of the exhibit are the 20 new exhibit cases displaying the 20 most unique stories in our history. There are many, many; but these are the first chosen to premiere the balcony exhibit gallery. Eventually these stories will be changed out with more unique stories of Waseca County. We're already researching and writing more. You can help with that phase also by expressing your ideas and interests. This is only the beginning of seeing your Waseca County History Center functioning fully as a local historical interpretive/education center.

Technology is changing all the time ...

Certainly smartphone and tablet responsive site links are in the mix—how about touch screens with age-appropriate learning games and more history content? Let us know how you want your history delivered?





Waseca County
Historical Society's
2015 Spring Events:
YOU'RE INVITED!
Call 835-7700 to reserve!
historical.waseca.mn.us

Waseca County History Center's
SPRING LUNCHEON-LECTURE SERIES
MARCH 26
The Grange in Minnesota
T.J. MALASKEE



Waseca County Historical Society
315 2nd Ave NE, Waseca, MN
Paid reservations due March 24,
\$12 WCHS members, \$16 non-members
Hours: Tues-Fri, 9-5 / 507-835-7700

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.



Waseca County History Center's
SPRING LUNCHEON-LECTURE SERIES
APRIL 23
PRISON TERMINAL:
The Last Days of Private Jack Hall
OSCAR NOMINATED **EDGAR BARENS**

Waseca County Historical Society
315 2nd Ave NE, Waseca, MN
Paid reservations due April 21,
\$12 WCHS member, \$16 non-member
Hours: Tues-Fri, 9-5 / 507-835-7700

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.

Waseca County History Center's
SPRING LUNCHEON-LECTURE SERIES
MAY 28
The World of Bees
LARRY HOFMANN

Waseca County Historical Society
315 2nd Ave NE, Waseca, MN
Paid reservations due May 19,
\$12 WCHS member, \$16 non-member
Hours: Tues-Fri, 9-5 / 507-835-7700

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.

Thanks to these generous donors & volunteers!

From Dec 5, 2014 to Feb 28, 2015

These are quarterly new/renewed members, donations, acknowledgements. The WCHS Annual Report lists all members.

MEMBERSHIP

Renewing Members

Beckmann, Manny and Patricia (MN)
Bendix, John and Deanna (MN)
Berrie, Ann (KS)
Born, Rod (MN)
Bowe, Brian (MN)
Britton, Valerie (MN)
Byrne, Robert (TX)
Cochrane, David and Margaret (MN)
Devereaux, Lora (NV)
Draheim, Ardella (MN)
Dunn, Jane (MN)
Goehring, Pam and Larry (MN)
Habeck, Bill (FL)
Johnson, Michelle (MN)
Jones, Karl (MN)
Joyce, Ron (MN)
Kastner, Anne (MN)
Koehler, Brent (MN)
McCarthy, Virginia (MN)
Pettengell, LuEllen (CA)
Pettigrew, Quintin and Karen (MN)
Randall, Gyles and Carol (MN)
Rudolph, Janet (MN)
Smith, Martin (CA)
Stoehr, Harlan and Marlene (MN)
Taylor, Linda and Gary (MN)
Teskey, John (MN)
Thompson, Jeannie L./Dick (MN)
Tuttle, Deb (MN)
Walker, Roger and Roberta (MN)
Witt, Eugene and Fauniecia (MN)

New Members

Ballard, Michael (KS)
Blazis, Donna (MN)
Doyle, Lori (WA)
Feind, Martha (MN)
Gerber, Peter and Patricia (MN)
Hering, Bruce (MN)
Sexton, Tom and Jeanne (MN)
Walter, Bonnie (MN)
Wheelock, Greg and Donette (MN)
Zika, Dave (MN)

DONATIONS

2014 Annual Fund Drive

Allen, Mary
Anonymus
Beckmann, Pat and Manny
Born, Suzanne/Carol Cummins—To honor birthdays of Don & Margaret Wynnemer
Dey, Cathy and Jim
Espe, Charles and Kathy
Forrest, Daniel F.
Frisk, Bob and Kathy
Fox, Jim and Elaine
Gasner, Eunice
Giesen, Marjorie
Grant, Linda

Harguth, Dorothy
Hoehn, Glenn and Maxine
Kastner, Bonnie
Kiesler, Kal and Barbara
Miller, Lorraine
Nelson, Phil
Ofstedahl, Kathy
Pang, Andrew Searle
Sahlstrom, Mary Lou
Searle, Alan
Searle, Ruth
Selvik, Bruce and Debbie
Strand, Mel—To WCHS Endowment
Tesch, Russ and Marie
Tippy, Jim and Moira
Thompson, Jeanie L. and Dick
West, Tom and Francie
Witt, Eugene and Fauniecia

Annual Fund received in 2015

Ahlfors, Richard and Shirley
Allen, Mary
Anonymous
Blooming Grove All-In-One Fund
Forrest, Sally
Gores, Marjorie
Johnson, Ron
Jones, Karl
Lewer, Henry and Phyllis—To the Bailey-Lewer Library Shelving Project
Lundquist, Jean and Ole—To the Bailey-Lewer Library Shelving Project
Markus, Beth—In memory of Richard Markus
Neidt, Millie
Punchard, Dick
Rosenthal, Kathy
Velett Laurie
Vogt-Erickson, Jennifer
Wobschall, Carol

Memorials

In memory of Loren Malling

by Donna Fostveit
by Russell and Terri Ingram
by Carol Wobschall

In memory of Ruth Koza

by Donna Fostveit
by Russell and Terri Ingram
by Jeanie L. and Dick Thompson
by Carol Wobschall

In memory of Herb and

Lucille Sponberg

by Dr. Jan Sponberg

In memory of Winnie Clemons

by Donna Fostveit

In memory of Lorraine Carlson

by Alvin and Donna Miller

In memory of Gordon Fretham

by Donna Fostveit

In memory of Jim Miller

by Bruce and Mary Jane Stauffer

In memory of Jim O'Regan

by Dave and Melissa Dunn

In memory of Geb Singlestad

by Rick and Sheila Morris

Appropriations

Waseca County
City of Waseca
Iosco Township
Woodville Township

VOLUNTEERS

Dan Swenson
Dave Dunn
Rick Morris
Cap Peterson
Greg Johnson
Justine Meyers
Karl Jones—For on-going artifact restoration
Dave Zika—For painting exhibit cases
Brad Wendland—For project consultation with interior walls restoration, and all the paint donations

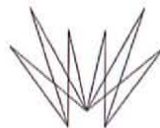
GRANTS/Received

\$2,000—Exxon-Mobil Foundation matching grant (Wynnemer donation) for the Bailey-Lewer Library shelving project

\$4,584—Partial Grant Payment from Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council for Spring Luncheon speakers and for Chautauqua 2015/Trowbridge Park

GRANTS/Approved

\$10,000—Minnesota Historical & Cultural Heritage Grant for the Interpretive Plan for Hofmann Apiaries project



Grant Recipient
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL
& CULTURAL GRANTS

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



The Minnesota Historical and Cultural Grants Program has been made possible by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the vote of Minnesotans on November 4, 2008. Administered by the Minnesota Historical Society.

What is your connection
to Waseca County history?

How do you support it?

RENEW

Your membership.

INCREASE

Your Member Level.

Donate to an
ENDOWMENT.

It's the kind of gift that
keeps on giving.

Contribute to the
ANNUAL FUND
for Operations.

Think about your final
plans. Make WCHS a
BENEFICIARY.

Make a
GRAIN DONATION.

Become a
HISTORY PARTNER

VOLUNTEER

Does your employer match
volunteer hours with a do-
nation?

GIFT MEMBERSHIP

To your family members
& friends.

MEMORIALS & HONORARIA

Are a great way to remem-
ber and honor loved ones.

ADVOCATE

For WCHS. You know us,
tell others about WCHS.



Waseca County Historical Society

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www.historical.waseca.mn.us

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March 26, The Grange in Waseca County

Call 507-835-7700 to reserve by March 24.

Membership Renewal Date



Historic Preservation: Area Businesses & Local History

Has anyone noticed that since the Waseca Preservation Commission started, there has been an increase in the interest of local history in our downtown buildings and elsewhere? The use of WCHS collection images decorate many lobbies, offices, restaurants, conference rooms all over the county. And there have been other changes, inside and outside. Here are a few instances, more will be presented in future *History Notes*:

The American Tap House Bar & Grill *Owned and operated by Mary Olson and Troy Tuma*

They opened last fall offering burgers, pizza, wings, salads, and snacks; and a host of popular and regional beers and wines. They spent months renovating the original Waseca Mutual Insurance building to make it an inviting lunch and evening spot for a burger and brew. We love that they used local historical images to decorate their table tops—as kind of permanent placemats!

Thrivent Financial Office *Owned and operated by Brent Koehler*

Brent's restoration of the former PARK Theater building seemed a long time in happening. The building laid dormant for years providing a roost for the city's pigeon population. But no more. Brent sought the assistance of WCHS in researching the history of his building. He gladly embraced that history with the display of enlarged rare photographs of the theater exterior in the Thrivent new office interiors. WCHS collaborated with Brent to also display the PARK Theater marquee neon signage in storage for so many years with only "Found in Collection" documentation. This allowed us to collaborate with Brent to display them at his office.

Barden's Bar *Owned and operated by Shane Wendland*

After years of coaxing, Shane Wendland and a group of volunteers removed the suspended ceiling at Barden's to reveal the beautiful Arts & Crafts-Style (1880-1910) stained glass skylights and front transom windows hidden for so many years. The building was originally the Waseca Security State Bank which merged with Farmers National Bank in 1936 and then closed. It became Barden's Bar in 1937. In 1965 Dick Wendland and Dick Hayes purchased the Bar, keeping the name Barden's. *More information about this site & others during Preservation Month in May.*

