

History Notes

Volume 42, Issue 1, March 2020 www.historical.waseca.mn.us / LOOK FORWARD TO OUR PAST

Winnebago Indian Reservation
1855-1863
Main Roads 1860



Inside:

MY KRASSIN FAMILY HISTORY by Dallas McColley

ANNUAL REPORT 2019 www.historical.waseca.mn.us

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Museum Hours

Open Tuesdays-Fridays, 9-5

Bailey-Lewer Library

Open Tuesdays-Fridays, 9-12, 1-5



Hofmann Apiaries

Funded in part by the Minnesota

And

The Waseca Area Foundation

WCHS Loses Board Secretary, but gains a staff researcher! Welcome Virginia McCarthy!



From the Executive Director

Joan Mooney

History in the Making

I'd much rather read about it than experience it.

What a strange time this is. We know about the epidemics in our history. We know how long they lasted, how many died, how many survived, controls used to stop the spread and hopefully the vaccine that prevented the virus from spreading.

Perhaps what is different today is we are now a global society. We are responsible for our own well being as well as others. What a daunting responsibility this is proving to be.

We have global resources for sharing information, updates and reports. No one is in denial of the severity of our situation. As a species we find ourselves united as this virus unfolds on a global scale. How quickly we prioritize when we have no choice.

We have entered into unknown territory, as many of our ancestors did. They endured diseases, overcrowded and unsanitary conditions that ravaged the ships that carried them, and if they survived, a new world that was not always welcoming.

We are able to tell their stories. This story is unfolding in real time.

WCHS will be promoting our spring and summer programs in the hopes that with time and effort the Corona virus will be under control.

That being said:

On behalf of the Waseca County Historical Society Board and Staff we will be closed to the public until April 1. Staff will be available by phone or email during this time. We have plenty to do! We will update hours as soon as we know more. Check our Facebook page and website for information.

Stay well,
Joan

Traveling? Please call ahead.

The Minnesota History Center

Traveling exhibit "Coming of Age"

will open on Saturday

June 13 in celebration of the

Class of 1965 High School Reunion!

Coming OF AGE THE 1968 GENERATION

A traveling exhibit from the Minnesota History Center.

Coming in May to the WCHS Museum!

GROWING UP AMIDST political turmoil and revolutionary social change had a lasting impact on teens in the late 1960s. This special exhibit looks at the pivotal events—both far away and close to home—that forever shaped the lives of this generation.

WINNEBAGO INDIAN RESERVATION (1855-1863)

WASECA COUNTY HISTORY & MY KRASSIN FAMILY HISTORY

By Dallas McColley

This story was posted by Dallas McColley on the WCHS Facebook page. With the author's permission, we are sharing it with you.



Martin Krassin (died 1877) and his wife, Justina Arndt Krassin. Ca 1875

In 1855, two events were taking place at the same time, but not in coordination with each other. The Government established the Winnebago Indian Reservation in Blue Earth and Waseca Counties, moving the Indians down from Parkers Prairie in northern Minnesota. At the same time, the first white settlers were establishing homesteads in present day Waseca County.

"Child's History of Waseca County, Minnesota" records the coming of my great-great grandparents Martin and Justina Krassin. [pgs. 31-32]: "As soon as grass started the next spring, Mr. Krassin, in company with his father and mother, his wife and one child, his brother John F, his brother-in-law Gottlieb Prechel, who was accompanied by wife and children; his youngest sister, Justina, now Mrs. J E Child; Fred Wobschall; Fred Proechel (Big Fred); and John G. Greening and family, made preparations to move to Minnesota. The journey was a toilsome one, and they did not arrive until about the first of June, 1855."

These were the first settlements in St. Mary Township. My Krassin family established two homesteads along the LeSueur River; Martin Krassin's claim in Section 31 and Gottlieb Prechel's claim in Section 32.

The majority of the Winnebago Reservation was in Blue Earth County, but it also included present day Alton and Freedom townships in Waseca County, plus the western tier of sections in St Mary and Wilton townships. Martin's claim was part of the Reservation and at some point after starting to build his homestead, the family was forced to change their location. They moved about three miles farther east on the LeSueur River in Section 34. Gottlieb Prechel's claim in Section 32 bordered the Indian Reservation, but not within the reservation, so he did not change his location.

Child's History [pg. 750]: "For a number of years, the Winnebago Indians lived in close proximity, and, while they were peaceable, they were constantly begging for food from their white neighbors, thus making the lives of the new settlers a great hardship; for food, at this time, was high priced and scarce."

I don't know if all Indian Reservations attempted this, but the Winnebago Indian Reservation (with its headquarters near St. Clair) made decided attempts to convert the Indians to the White Way. Each Indian family was given 80 acres to create their own farm. Reports from the Reservation imply that they were being successful in their attempts.

But with the Sioux Uprising in 1862, the fate of the Winnebago Indians meant that the whites wanted them gone and the area opened to white settlements and on Feb. 20, 1863, the Government passed that legislation. The Winnebago Reservation was disbanded and the land sold. Sealed bids were to be made in which each party had to bid at least \$2.50 per acre, and then the highest bid for a particular piece of land would be awarded the patent.



Justine Krassin Child. Ca 1880 photograph of woman identified on the back as Mrs. James E. Child.

Martin Krassin bought 117.12 acres in Section 31 and paid \$4.10 per acre. Two of his brothers-in-law (married to Justina's sisters) bought land next to his – John Sell bought 160 acres in Section 31 for \$2.70 per acre; and Christian Melchoir bought 80 acres in Section 30 for \$3.15 per acre. Studying the purchases around these showed that most sold in the \$2.51 to \$2.75 per acre range.

My assumption is that Martin Krassin paid more than the \$2.50 starting bid for his land as it may have been one of those Indian farms with a homestead established on the land (and not just bare land). And an even more interesting mystery – COULD THE LAND HE PURCHASED, HAVE BEEN THE HOMESTEAD ON WHICH HE FIRST ESTABLISHED HIMSELF, BUT HAD TO MOVE BECAUSE IT WAS PART OF THE INDIAN RESERVATION?



John Sell Family Portrait. Photograph of three men and three women identified on the back as John Sell family. Ca 1880



Thomas and Susan Lee Devine

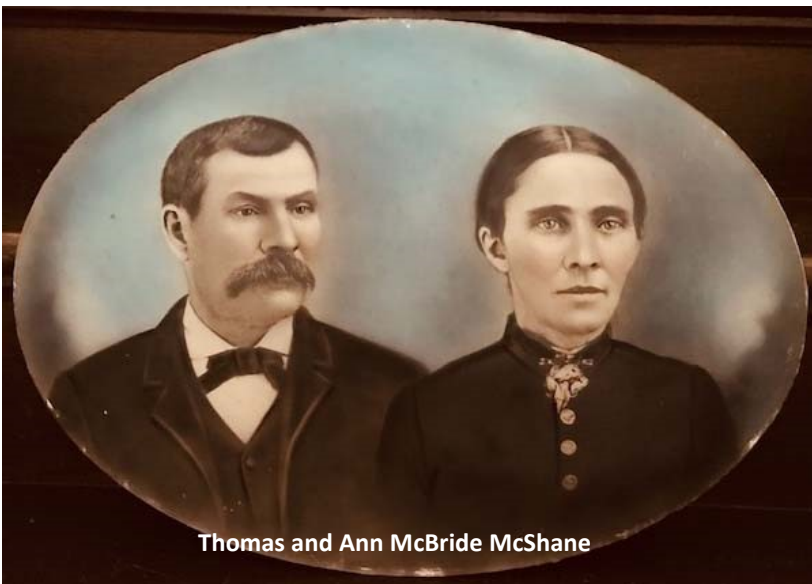
WCHS Donation of the Month

Three beautiful portraits were donated by the McShane family recently. The McShanes and the Devines were part of the farming community of Iosco Township and members of St. Jarlath's Catholic Church.

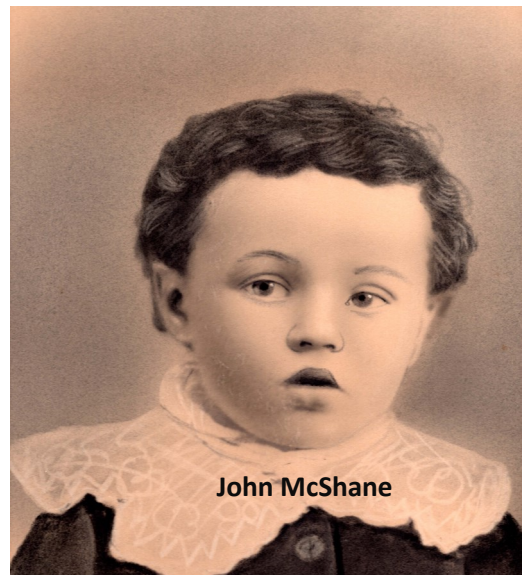
Thomas Devine (1858-1940) married Susan Lee (1866-1910), daughter of early settler and County Commissioner, William Lee and his wife Catherine Behan Lee.

Thomas McShane (1839-1907) married Ann McBride (1846-1889) of Faribault and farmed later in Iosco Township. They are the parents of John McShane who married Ellen Devine (1888-1973) in 1910, the daughter of Thomas and Susan Devine.

Reference: "The People of St. Jarlath's, Iosco, Waseca County, Minnesota", researched and compiled by Mary Lou Irhke, now in our Research Library.



Thomas and Ann McBride McShane



John McShane

First Quarter Contributions January 1st – March 25th 2020

New / Renewing Sustainer Members

Goehring, Pam and Larry
Kramer, Robyn

Volunteers

Beckmann, Dianne
Buum, Marty
Dunn, Dave
Groskreutz, Dale
Lechner, Karen
Raimann, Carol
Youngberg, Katie
Zika, Dave

New Members

Buland, Eric
Edwards, Tom
Engle, Diane
Kramer, Robyn
Roemhildt, Terry
Spies, Loy
Spies, Lynferd
Walbran, Mark
Wheelock, Donnette and Greg

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Renewing Members

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Bartelt, Craig
Bliven, Mark
Bluhm, Jane and Robin
Britton, Valerie
Bruesch, J. Carl
Buesing, Orville
Byrne, Robert
Byron, Brenda
Byron, Molly
Carpenter, Michael
Elsner, Arlene
Espe, Charles and Kathryn
Ewert, Margaret
Fitzsimmons, William and Sandra
Flood, Karen
Friedl, Barbara
Fritche, Darcy
Giesen, Marge
Gillomen, Carollea
Grant, Linda
Habeck, William
Harguth, Dorothy
Hoffman, Betty
Hogan, Jim
Holmes, James
Holmquist, Harlan
Holt, Maggie
Jacobson, Robbin Forrest
Johnson, Gregg
Johnson, Michelle
Joyce, Ron

Renewing Members Continued

Kurkoski, Thomas and Cherryl
Pooley, Arlene
Priebe, Janet
Quickstad, Terry
Randall, Gyles and Carol
Scheidnes, Jane
Sheehan, Aaron
Smith, Martin
Spies, Lynferd
Sponberg, Jana Lee
Strain, Reid
Streng, Gary
Tesch, Russell and Marie
Tollefson, Nancy
Velett, Laurie
Vogler, William
Walter, Bonnie

Memorials and Honorariums

In memory of Myrna Wright

by Gene and Kathleen Rosenthal

In memory of Minnie Milbrath

by Linda Grant

In memory of James R. Miller

Juanita Miller

In memory of Melford Fretham

by Donna Fostveit

In memory of James Geraghty

by Donna Fostveit

In memory of Jane Malterer

by Donna Fosveit

In memory of Joan (Jean) Mooney

by Patrice Abbe

In memory of Darryl Vilt

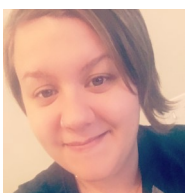
by Dave and Melissa Dunn

In honor of Arthur Klinger

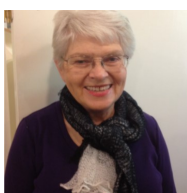
by Richard Klinger

WCHS STAFF

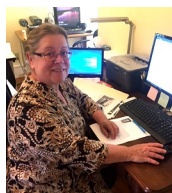
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Design Tech
& Admin.



Pauline Fenelon
Artifact & Library
Curator



Jan Hunter
Research &
Genealogy



Virginia McCarthy
Research &
Genealogy



WASECA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

USED BOOK SALE

JULY 15TH-20TH, 2020
WASECA COUNTY FAIR
HODGSON HALL

NO Encyclopedias, Text Books, Bibles, Magazines, Records, VHS, Cassettes, or Damaged Books

Call ahead to set up drop off time!!
 Phone: 507-835-7700

WWW.HISTORICL.WASECA.MN.US

We know today this seems like wishful thinking, and of course we know the seriousness of this pandemic. There's a good chance we will not be able to host the events posted on this page.

We must all do what we can to get through this. We will update any changes to these events on our website and Facebook page. Stay home, stay well and we will soon be together again.

Remember the Bridesmaid dresses you were told you could wear again for other occasions?
Before they're gone forever give us a call !



Waseca County Historical Society Presents

ROCK & ROLL REVUE II

FRI. 12 JUNE
 5 p.m. to MIDNIGHT
DANCING SHOES A MUST!

AT **THE MILL**
 310 2nd Ave SW

5 p.m. To 7 p.m. **BEER and WINE Tasting**

MUSIC STARTS 7 p.m.

featuring **WHS CLASS of 65**

heavy **Hors d'oeuvres**

Your favorite **Waseca ROCK & ROLLERS**

Get your tickets **today!**
507 835 7700

Waseca County History Center

Waseca County History Center



To view the WCHS 2019 Annual Report

please go to
www.historical.waseca.mn.us
on April 7th
To Request a Copy call us

WCHS Volunteer Opportunities

- Master Gardeners: Bailey/Lewer House garden maintenance
- Bailey House porch painting
- Summer Saturdays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- WCHS Fundraiser-Rock and Roll Revue June 12

Call 507-835-7700 to sign up or for more information

Hofmann Apiaries and the Waseca County Historical Society



- #1. The John Doe Family
- #2. Your Name Here!
- #3.
- #4.
- #5.
- #6.
- #7.
- #8.
- #9.
- #10.

Phase 1
Completed
Phase 2
Next!

34 WINDOWS Adopt a Window Campaign Starts now!

To qualify you must recognize and value the preservation of this National Register Treasure

- Level 1 Adoption Fee: \$ 500 3 windows
- Level 2 Adoption Fee: \$ 200 1 window
- Level 3 Adoption Fee: General Donation for window restoration

Help Us Light Up the Honey House!

To Donate call 507.835.7700

Waseca County History Center



RETHOS (Mn Preservation Alliance) Repairing and Restoring Old Windows Workshop When: Sat. May 16 Where: Hofmann Apiaries to register call WCHS 507-835-7700



Waseca County Historical Society

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Membership Renewal Date

