

# HISTORY NOTES

315 NE 2nd Avenue P.O. Box 314 Waseca MN 56093

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



**What's Inside:**

## **Your Holiday Memories**

History Notes is a publication  
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P.O. Box 314, Waseca, MN 56093  
315 Second Avenue N.E., 507-835-7700  
www.historical.waseca.mn.us

**WCHS 2022 Board of Directors:**

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Linda Finley  
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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, Museum Manager  
amandl@historical.waseca.mn.us

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

**Museum Winter Hours**

Open Tuesdays-Fridays, 9-4:30

**Bailey-Lewer Library**

Open for research Tuesdays and Fridays,  
9-5

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

**WCHS is a recipient of**

**Thrivent Financial Choice**

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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.

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**From the Executive Director**

Joan Mooney

Dear Members,

As the year draws to a close, I would like to thank all of you for the support we have received in 2022.

Another historic year has been experienced by the world, our country, our communities, our friends and families. I feel the story of the pandemic of 2020-2022 is still being told. Not yet

measured is the effect this experience has had on our well being as a whole. A sense of apprehension seems to linger even though we have gained great strides toward universal wellness in the past year. My hope for 2023 is for the continuation of the healing process, a return to civility and a genuine desire to work together toward common good.

That being said; we have opportunities here at WCHS!

We have two seats opening up on the WCHS Board of Directors. We are inviting people from our rural neighborhoods to join us as we seek to represent all of Waseca County on our board. If you are curious about a board position please contact me, and I will explain requirements for the position.

It's with deep gratitude we acknowledge Dave Dunn for his 9 years of service to WCHS. Dave has served three consecutive terms, completing his terms of service on the WCHS Board of Directors. Thank you Dave Dunn. We will miss you!

More Opportunities!

Do you have skills to share? Hesitant to commit? Yes, I know the feeling! However, we could use some volunteer help in the following areas; general building maintenance - a little patching and painting, garden maintenance, exhibit building and event volunteers.

Call me and we'll have a conversation!

Wishing you all the best in the New Year,

*Joan Mooney and the WCHS Board of Directors*



**Waseca  
County  
History  
Center**

**On the Cover**

Our friend Donna Fostveit brought in the 1964 Christmas letter from the St. John Grain Company located in Waldorf. Their gratitude expressed in this letter was genuine as the company suffered a tremendous loss just 3 years prior. The main elevator, feed mill house, garage, offices and warehouse were destroyed by fire on January 27, 1961. The elevator built on the west side of the highway was spared. Thankfully no one was hurt, the origins of the fire were not known. They were able to salvage all of the business records, some furniture, a new pickup, a bulk feed truck and the original water cooler. Clair St. John opened his elevator operations in Waldorf in 1949. St. John added a new grain dryer and built another elevator across the street. He had his concerns regarding elevator fires. The elder St. John lost an elevator to fire in 1916. In 1962 St. John Grain Company built a new office building next to the old weigh station. Up until then the business was operating out of Charles St. John's home. In 1967 the business was sold to Gordon Bartelt and Charles Sonnek and named the B&S Grain Company. B&S closed to public business in 1998.

More Waldorf history can be found in the first and second editions of *A Touch of Waldorf History* by Judy Joecks, Bailey/Lewer Research Library.

# WCHS Winter Activities



Waseca High School Choir performs at our Holiday Open House.



Waseca High School Drama Department performs a scene from Little Women at the Holiday Open House.



Hartley Kindergarten class came to visit and learn about the history of Native Americans in Waseca County.



Grace's first trimester with us is over and she has experienced a lot already! She has learned how to process artifacts, change out displays, retrieve/put away artifacts, and how to index newspapers. She has also been a big part of the high school drama department involvement at the museum and even acted in the Little Women performance.



Thank you Ron Joyce for the brand new extension ladder. Safety is now first not last!

## STAFF

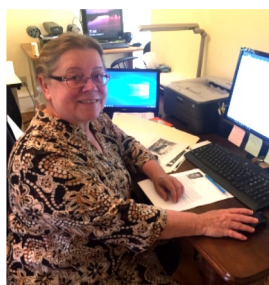
**Pauline Fenelon**

Artifact & Library Curator



**Jan Hunter**

Research & Genealogy



**Virginia McCarthy**

Research & Genealogy



**Amanda Larkin**

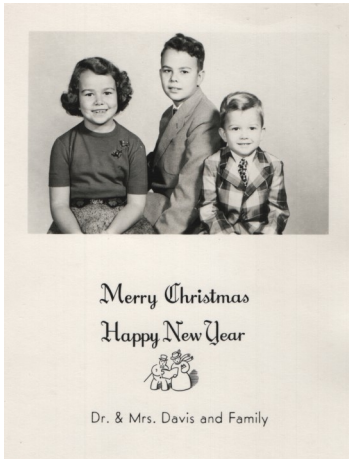
Museum Manager



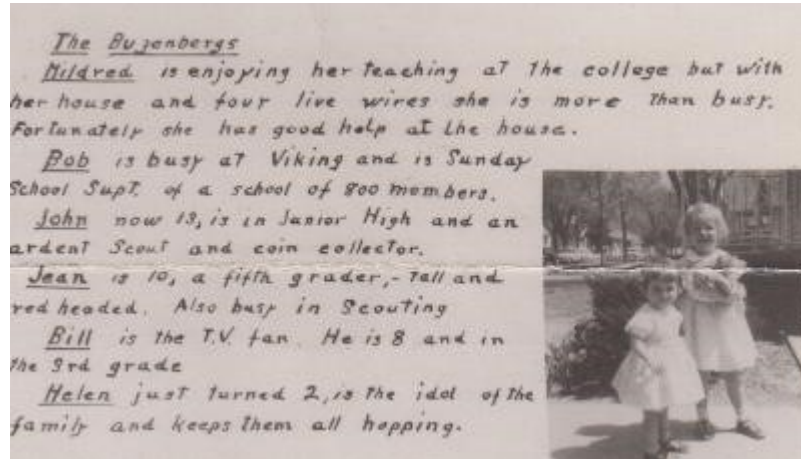


## Holiday Remembrances from the WCHS Collection

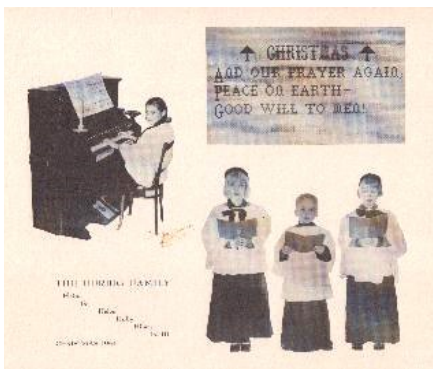
To those of you who still author your annual Christmas/Holiday letters we give thanks! We have a sampling in our collection to remind us of this tradition. We also have just a few "Letters to Santa" in the archives. These are precious documents. Keep them close if you have them and bring them out for the holidays, so much joy to be found in our memories. Enjoy the photo's from the WCHS collection. More available for viewing on our website.



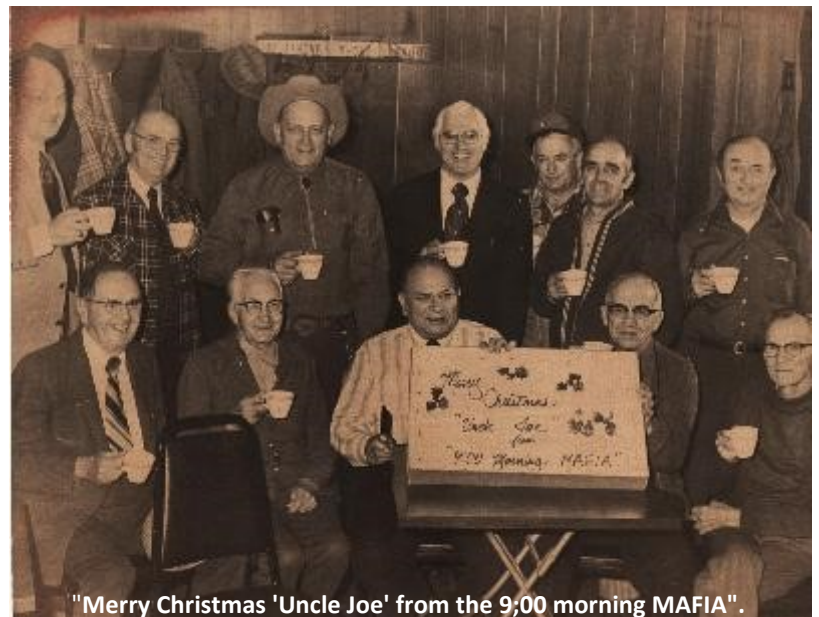
Dr. Raymond & Greta Davis Christmas card. Identified L-R: Becky, Brad and little brother Davis. Ca. 1955



Christmas greeting with inset photograph of Elaine and Laura Cole; grandchildren of John and Lillian Erickson; daughters of Esther (Erickson) and Evan Cole. 1954



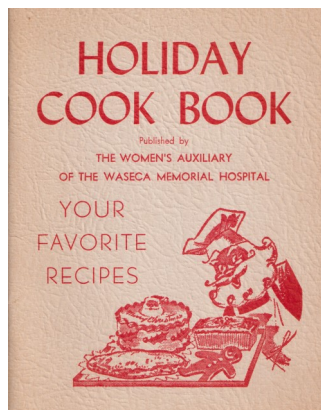
From the Ed Herbig family; identified L-R: Helen (at the piano), Holly, Ed III, and Hilary Herbig at Christmas 1954



"Merry Christmas 'Uncle Joe' from the 9:00 morning MAFIA".

### Holiday Cook Book

Published by the Women's Auxiliary of the Waseca Memorial Hospital. Compiled by Marcia Dimmel, Journal-Herald Society Editor Ca. 1940  
Donated by Diane Beckmann



Joe Powell Christmas Party. L-R: (back row) Pastor Paul Knutson, Bob Kieselbach, Harold Born, Henry Lewer, G. Powell, Mr. Lee, Bob Powell; (front row) Bob McCarthy, David Piche, Joe Powell, Clint Whiting, George Gallagher; also known as the "9:00 morning Mafia holding a Merry Christmas party for "Uncle Joe."



Ed Mosher  
and Waseca  
Creamery  
Truck. Ca.  
1920



Christmas Eve at the Mettler residence identified L-R: (first row) Allen Mettler and Dog Rex: (second row) Jackie Mettler, Galen Mettler, Donnie Szyszka and Bob Szyszka: (third row) Richard Szyszka, Dale Szyszka and LaVern Szyszka.



Mishek Supply Company Christmas Letter circa 1950s. Ruth, Bob, Mary (14), Walter (11) and Susan (8); "From our house to your house. Greetings... At Christmas time, we wish for you all the spiritual blessings of the season. May your heart and home be filled with happiness supreme. Mishek Supply Co., 821 East Elm Avenue, Waseca, Minnesota."



Deichen Christmas Card. "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year"; signed: Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Deichen and Ruth; attached above greeting: artist rendering photo print of house signed "R.D." Ca. 1950

Dale and Lynn  
Groskreutz  
Family 2022  
Donated by Dale  
Groskreutz



## Fourth Quarter Contributions: September 9th, 2022 – December 15th, 2022

### Renewing Members

Albrecht, Louis  
Aldrich, Donald  
Amsrud, Mary  
Bentley, Bethel  
Boje, Cory  
Boyer, Tim and Audra  
Byron, Mark  
Carlson, Brad and Colleen  
Coyer, Gayle  
Curran, Helen  
Day, William  
Dey, James and Cathy  
Dobberstein, Deb and Gary  
Fell, June  
Fenelon, Kari  
Fenelon, Pauline  
Galvin, Carroll and Grace  
Gilberston, Carolyn  
Gilleland, Wayne  
Grable, Sue  
Harguth, Char  
Hunt, Nadine  
Hunter, Jan  
Hunter, Robert  
Inman, Steven  
Josephes, Richard  
Klinger, Robert  
Koechel, Lynn  
Kozan, Anita  
Lundquist, Jean and Olof  
Milkint, Noralee  
Miller, Kathleen and Andrew  
Peters, Jackie  
Rauschm, Bill and Cookie

### Renewing Members

Roesler, Neil  
Roessler, Karen  
Rosenthal, Darryl and Carol  
Rosenthal, Gregg  
Ross, Jackie  
Singlestad, Scott and Vicky  
Smith, Martin  
Smith, Maureen  
Sutlief, JoAnn  
Swenson, Lynn and Susan  
Taylor, Linda and Gary  
West, Tom and Francie

### New Members

Allison, Carrie  
Baird, Vicki  
Cangurel-Pofahl, Susan  
Danielson, Amy  
Dickie, Jackie and Jeff  
Hall, Philo  
Monahan, Jeffrey  
Rohde, Robert  
Swift, Anita

### Sustaining Members

Cawley, Jerry  
Erdman, Molly  
Lucas, Chuck  
Murphy, Mike

### Appropriations

Vivian Township  
Wilton Township

### Memorials/Honorariums

In memory of John Slattery  
by Jean Slattery  
  
In memory of Bob and Lois Chaffin  
by Jackie Peters  
  
In memory of Margaret Wynnemer  
by Keith and Wilda Smith  
  
In memory of Todd Adler  
by Joanne Hintz  
  
In memory of Molly Gallagher Carter  
by Nancy Nelson-Deppe  
  
In memory of Jody Nelson  
by Donna Fostveit  
  
In memory of Ruth Fostveit  
Michaelis by Donna Fostveit  
  
In memory of Parents and  
Grandparents by Laurie Velett  
  
In memory of Marge Finley  
by Mike and Linda Finley  
  
In memory of Charlie and Dorothy  
Gigeay by Marjorie Giesen  
  
In memory of Bob Gigeay  
By Marjorie Giesen

### Donations

Adelmann, Marianne  
Dey, James and Cathy  
Forrest, Dan and Cheryl  
Johnson, Ron and Janet  
Lundquist, Jean and Olof  
Madel Jr., R.P. and Mary Ann  
Ross, Jackie  
West, Tom and Francie  
Wick, Bruce and Lorraine



## The Waseca County Historical Society

www.historical.waseca.mn.us | 315 NE 2nd Avenue Waseca, MN 56093 | 507-835-7700

*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.*

### 2022 Year End Giving Campaign

All donations will be listed in the 2022 WCHS Annual Report.

The Waseca County Historical Society is a Minnesota Non Profit 501 (c)3 organization. Your charitable donation may be fully tax deductible. Please consult your financial advisor for tax information.

Please send in the donation slip below or you can donate online:  
[www.historical.waseca.mn.us](http://www.historical.waseca.mn.us)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION!**

**Yes! I want to make a donation to support the efforts of the Waseca County Historical Society:**

#### My Contribution is:

\$25     \$50     \$100     \$ 250     \$500     \$ Other

**Please use my gift for:**  Operations     Special Project     Endowments     Bailey-Lewer Library

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to contribute in Memory or In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please notify this individual (s) of my donation:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

The Waseca County Historical Society Collection holdings include, as of December 2022, 36,132 Artifacts and 22,203 photographs online for global viewing! All Waseca County newspapers from 1861 to present can be viewed at the Bailey-Lewer Research Library as well as tons of information regarding Waseca County History just waiting to be discovered. Your continuing support has made our museum and research library what it is today.

Donations and memberships dollars are critical for operating support as are annual appropriations from Waseca County, Waseca County Cities, and Township Boards. Operational costs for the Museum and the Bailey-Lewer Library average \$12,000 per month. With your support, we can maintain a foundation strong enough to accommodate new programs, exhibits and technology and staffing.

We are a 501c3 non-profit organization, accountable to the state of Minnesota, the county communities, and especially the WCHS members all over the country. Although WCHS maintains a strong partnership with Waseca County, WCHS staff are not employees of the county. One of our goals is to be able to provide a living wage to staff in order to showcase and preserve Waseca County History.

**Please celebrate and support the legacy of all people, places and things that tell the unique story of Waseca County, past, present and future. Thank you! Joan Mooney, Staff and WCHS Board of Directors.**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Membership Renewal Date

