

Waseca County Historical Society

History Notes

Volume 34 Issue 3 / Sept 2012



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



ON THE COVER: *The Janesville FREE Public Library renovation project is finished! The roof and the foundation walls were restored. Did you know that it is on the National Register of Historic Places? Did you know that it is one of the hundreds of Carnegie Libraries built across the nation early in the twentieth century, so that more people would have access to books, education, information. This library represents that effort in our Waseca county community, and it's celebrating a big birthday this Fall. Read more on page 6.*

INSIDE: **A Sunday Brunch in Matawan, October 28 / ADA Project delayed / See the Museum Shop's NEW Vintage Signs / What does "Historic" mean? See page 4 / What is "What Was There"? / Getting ready for our 75th birthday!**

History Notes is a publication of the Waseca County Historical Society ©2012
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www.historical.waseca.mn.us

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WCHS HOURS:

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



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

October 10: WCHS Board Meeting, 6 p.m.

October 28: WCHS Annual Meeting & Sunday Brunch Out in the County; at Matawan School house, 11:30-1:30, \$8 per person, PAID reservations due by October 24. Located at 20650 67th Street in Matawan, Byron Township.

November 14: WCHS Board Meeting, 6 p.m.

November 15: GiveMN's *Give-To-The-Max Day*, Minnesota's Day of Giving, search and support "Waseca County Historical Society"! www.givemn.org

December 1 & 2: The Annual Holiday Open House has been CANCELED because of the ADA Compliance Project delays. But in January we'll have a lift and new main floor bathroom. Come see us in 2013!

Please be patient, we'll have a new schedule of events in 2013. We will be celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Waseca County Historical Society now being planned. *Stand by!*

February 26, 2013: *The 75th birthday of WCHS.*

February 2013: *Annual Ice Harvest at Clear Lake and the Sleigh & Cutter Festival*

March, April & May: *Spring Luncheons/Lectures*

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



From the Co-Directors . . .

Dear Members . . .

As our busy summer comes to an end the co-directors and WCHS Board would like to thank staff, members and volunteers for stepping up and supporting our activities during one of the hottest summers on record.

Speaking of “hot”—this photograph was sent to us from John Byron, Cocoa Beach, FL. This is how he remembers his hometown ties to Waseca—a hot red, sporty “Beamer”. I bet Floridians mispronounce “W-A-S-E-C-A” when they notice these vanity plates!

Thanks, John, for sending the photo!

Chautauqua 2012 marked the beginning of an unrelenting heat wave. The weather cooled somewhat for the Waseca County Fair and was perfect for the Garden Walk. We are looking forward to fall and all the changes it will bring.



Museum is Getting a Lift

The museum will be under construction this fall. The ADA project is getting underway, a little late, but definitely will be finished before January 2013. What does that mean for visitors? It means all the exhibits have been put into storage, or they are covered with plastic sheeting. It also means that staff is busy preparing to open when the lift and mainfloor bathroom are finished, with a museum full of exhibits of Waseca County history. This has been a long time coming after so much re-evaluation, re-storing and planning.



Technology Changes Every Week

Well maybe not every week, but there’s always something new to learn about and see if it will help us tell Waseca County stories and facts better or to more people. One fact is accepting that history happens every day. Artifacts and information are discovered or

brought to us every day. And so historical story-telling and interpretation will never be finished. And others will carry on after us—as long as the WCHS organization, collection, museum and library, and the passion of saving our history stays alive.

So how do you want your history?

Because WCHS needs new and renewing members, we need board and advisory committee members to help us utilize the technology and social media that a new generation relies on for interaction. Just a few years ago we worked just to get



your history on the Internet—indexed, searchable, complete. Now we need to frame the stories of our history to give you context and meaning. Next stop Q-

R codes, iPhones and iPads, touch screens and the real thing—the Collection on exhibit. What do you think? Please let us know.

WCHS’ Out-in-the-County Sunday Brunch in Matawan

The Waseca County Historical Society Annual Meeting will be held in the restored Matawan school house. This year we will host a Sunday Brunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on October 28. The Matawan school house is the home of the Byron Township Board, and they are graciously co-hosting this event.

What does “historic” really mean?

What qualifies as “historic” when we’re talking about houses and buildings? If your house is 50 years or older, it meets one qualification for a listing in the National Register of Historic Places, as well as local designation through the Waseca Heritage Preservation Commission.

What is the National Register of Historic Places?

The National Park Service administers the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is the official federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. National Register properties have significance to the history of their community, state, or the nation. Nominations for listing historic properties come from State Historic Preservation officers, from Federal Preservation Officers for properties owned or controlled by the United States government, and from Tribal Historic Preservation Officers for properties on tribal lands. Private individuals and organizations, local governments, and American Indian tribes often initiate this process and prepare the necessary documentation. A professional review board in each state considers each property proposed for listing and makes a recommendation on its eligibility.

Below, the Ed Herter house on Elm Avenue E., was built in the Queen Anne Victorian architectural style in 1906; below, the house in 2012.

The procedure for getting a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places is to, first, fill out the forms and paperwork for the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO); second, they will evaluate and decide if it should be sent on to the National Register. The National Register website is the go-to place for information. It will refer you to our State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) located in the Minnesota History Center. That is where we go for all preservation information. In the 1980s when the program was getting started, SHPO staff worked with county historical societies all over the state to get properties listed. It was at that time that Waseca County got 12 properties placed on the Historic Register. *Those were the days!* Since then the research and documentation required to nominate a property has greatly increased. It is our experience that the process involves an evaluation by a historic professional, usually an architect and a historian. Then you may want to consider hiring someone to write the nomination.

WCHS works with the City of Waseca through the Heritage Preservation Commission to target certain structures or areas in the city that may qualify for historic recognition. Does this mean they are eligible for the National Register? No, not necessarily. A good example is the Trowbridge Bandshell. An evaluation was submitted to SHPO for National Register con-

Criteria for Evaluation

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- a) That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- b) That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- c) That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- d) That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.



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The Leuthold house on Elm Avenue E., as it appeared in 1988, was built by prominent architect Frederick Kees in 1900.



Charles Leuthold house, c. 1898

sideration by the Waseca Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC). The recommendation was that it would not qualify on the structure alone. We could try again and include all of Trowbridge Park but the HPC had spent considerable time and grant funding to conduct the evaluation. The missing

piece was state and national significance. Instead the HPC made the Trowbridge Bandshell their first local designation. The Waseca HPC is wrapping up a historic inventory. When complete you can view it on the City of Waseca website. The next challenge for the HPC is developing a set of Design Guidelines, based on National Register Standards. The guidelines will be the framework needed for building owners interested in preservation.

With that said we are featuring two magnificent homes in the city of Waseca that are currently for sale. Neither property is on the National Register, however

we know the rich history of the homes and would like to share the History with you.

We hope the historical significance of these two homes will be preserved by the next owners. The HPC has no means of stopping any building owner from making changes on their buildings. The only time the HPC does have control is when a building owner receives funding from grants administered by the State Historic Preservation Office. Those repairs or restorations must adhere to the Secretary of the Interior National Standards For the Treatment of Historic Structures.

**City of Waseca
Heritage
Preservation
Commission**

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

The Edward Otto Herter House 615 East Elm Avenue, Waseca, MN

Researched by Linda Taylor

Edward Otto Herter started his career in Faribault working for the Ochs Brothers before coming to Waseca in 1894 at the age of 18. He married Margaret McLin on July 24, 1901, and they had two children, Margaret Thelma and George Leonard. Ed Herter and Otto Ochs, as partners, operated a department store on south State Street for five years. In 1913 Herter relocated to the C. Johnson Hardware building. A huge fire in 1942 destroyed the building and killed one employee.

The Herter house was sold to Waseca attorney, John McLoone, who added a large family room addition on the north east part of the Queen Anne-style Victorian house.

The Charles Leuthold House 824 East Elm Avenue, Waseca, MN

Researched by Pat Pearson

Charles Leuthold was a prominent businessman in Waseca. He and his brothers operated haberdasheries in Minnesota, South Dakota, Iowa and Wisconsin, including the Leuthold Brothers Clothing store in Waseca. Leuthold hired prominent architect, Frederick Kees, to design his new home on East Elm. The plans were approved in 1898 and the building completed around 1900.

About the Architect: Frederick Kees was born in 1852 and died in Minneapolis in 1927. During his lifetime he became a very successful and nationally known architect. He partnered with architect Franklin Long from 1884 to 1897. Their firm became one of the most successful architectural firms in Minneapolis. Together they designed and built many of the

largest buildings in Minneapolis in the 1880s and 1890s, including the first Minneapolis Public Library (1884), Masonic Temple (1888), Minneapolis City Hall and Courthouse (1888-1906), Lumber Exchange (1888-1890), Flour Exchange (1893-1897), Kasota Block (1884), and many warehouses, churches and private residences. It is interesting to note that the Lumber Exchange building was the first skyscraper in Minneapolis and one of the first fire-proof buildings in the country. Many of these projects and others are on the National Register of Historical Places.

Frederick Kees' work can also be found outside of Minnesota. He designed the Hennessy Building (1897-1898) in Butte, Montana. A tour of this building, among others, was conducted during a special event named "Twin Cities Architects in Montana" by the Montana Preservation Alliance (MPA) in August of this year. The Minnesota Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians joined the MPA on this week-end long tour of buildings in the National Historic Districts of Butte and Helena. After their partnership dissolved in 1897, Frederick Kees practiced on his own until 1899, when he formed a partnership with Serenus Colburn. It is in this two-year period that the plans were drawn for the Charles Leuthold house in Waseca.

Because of the historical significance on a local, state and national level, this home is worthy of local historic preservation designation and inclusion on the National Register. Only the second family to own the property was Lawrence and Leta Clemons. The Clemons raised ten children in this house. The third property-owners are Mark and Pat Pearson who purchased in December 2002. The property is for sale once again.

Update on Janesville Public Library

It's finished! The long-awaited project to replace the roof and repair the foundation walls was finally completed over the summer. It's a Carnegie Library built in 1912, and it has been on the National Register since 1982. The funding came from the Minnesota Historical Society Capital Grants-in-Aid with matching funds from the City of Janesville. Sara Britton, Administrative Assistant in the City office spear-headed and tackled that grant application, and supervised the work. WCHS cheered her on!

Watch for news of a 100th Birthday Party-Ice Cream Social for one of the most beautiful buildings in the county, now preserved for another hundred years!

All WCHS members are invited to vote at the very brief business meeting; but all members of the public are invited, too, but you must RSVP. Just call to make a reservation—507-835-7700 by October 24, cost is \$8.00 per person.

The Matawan school retained original floors, woodwork, blackboards, maps, benches and tables. Come and see! A history of the building and the restoration process will be presented at the meeting. **The address of Matawan School is 20650 67th Street in Matawan.**

On-going Historical Markers Project

Former WCHS Board member, Dan Swenson, has been conducting a search for Waseca County historical markers, plaques and event sites all over the county. He needs your help with completing this project, so that we can offer yet another historical record and reference information to the public. Dan has found over 153 such markers. WCHS supports Dan in this effort, as we also want stories, narratives, any information to add to the record of these sites. They may be official or unofficial. Please contact WCHS if you have a recommendation that might be on your farm, in your township, along side the road, out in the woods. Many such markers are home-made and may be grown over. Let us know what you know.

Eventually we may create a GPS map online to more easily locate each site. **Did you know there was a marker in Courthouse Park that marks where the stagecoach trail once was?**

CALL US, 507-835-7700



The marker indicating the site where the first white family settled, the Sutliefs in St. Mary Township.

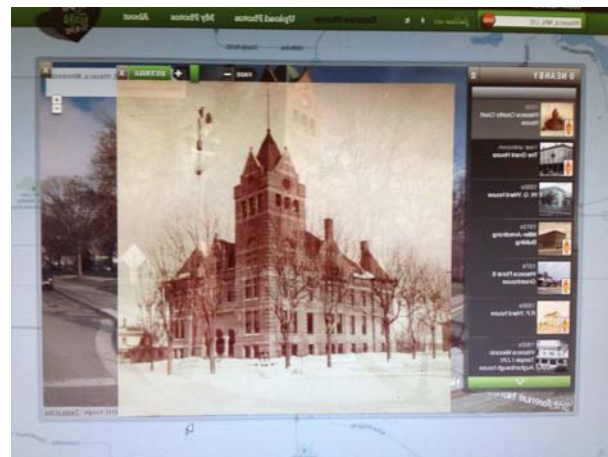
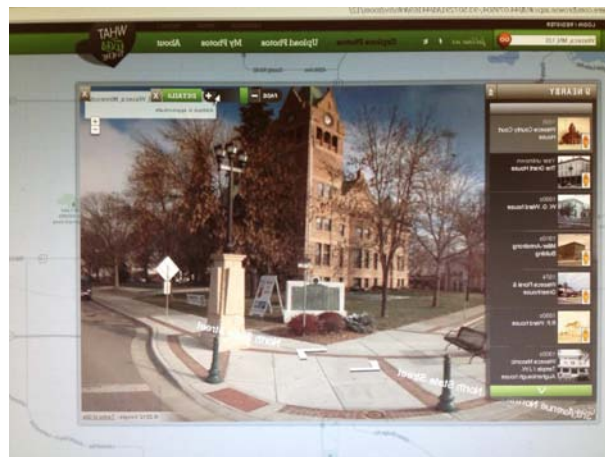


What was there? Check it out . . .

www.whatwasthere.com

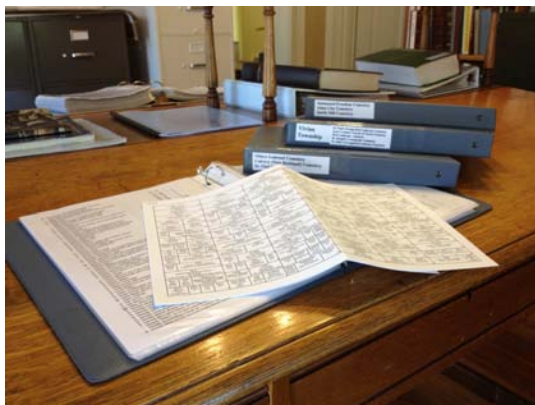
We want to bring a website to your attention. Visit and enter "Waseca, MN" and view the historic photographs that have been entered so far. What's fun about this is that it is linked to Google Maps and GPS. Click on one of the thumbnail photos. The historic photo displays. Then click on "Details" and you get a brief narrative about it. Click on "Street View" and Google Maps will show you what the site looks like now. The added feature is the "fade slide" that will fade the old photo (like a ghost) and let you see what is on the site today. Reverse the "slide" and you see the historic photo once again, seeing "what was there" long ago.

This is a free website. You must register and log-in to add your own photographs. The WCHS staff is adding more photographs as we have time. We want to upload our Waseca County's Historic Register sites. We've encountered just two problems. 1) The Google Map may not have captured your "site" to be able to experience the then and now effect; and 2) we can only enter photos that we have! There are photographs we don't have of some significant sites. This then and now effect works best on a desktop or laptop computer, but there is an app version for smart phones and tablets. You must own and/or have copyright privilege of any photographs you upload. Write what you know. The other really cool experience is driving on a trip somewhere else, go on this website or app, and the map will show the brown dots that indicate there is a historic photo and info near you. Tap on the dot and "wow!"



Waseca County Cemeteries Indexed

Since the 1990s, volunteers have been photographing and indexing our Waseca County cemeteries. Each grave has been photographed and is available at the Bailey-Lewer Library for all to see when they visit. When the project began under the direction of Margaret Sinn, it was decided that photographing each stone was the best way to save them for posterity. Karen and Bill Lechner, Jeanette Krause, Jean Lundquist, Linda Taylor, Bethel Bentley, Joanne Hintz, Betty Goodrich, Mary Lou Westlund and Margaret Sinn have contributed time on this project. Their work includes the following cemeteries: North Waseca Lutheran, Bethel Methodist, Immanuel Methodist, Peddler's Grove, St. John Lutheran, Minske, Kanne, St. Jarlath, Dusbabek, Ebenezer, Janesville, Vista Lutheran, Vista Mission, Neil's Farm, Roesler Farm, Pioneer,



Krassin, Prairie Peace, Radloff, Mycue, Wilton, LeSueur River Lutheran, St. Peter Lutheran, St. Ann's Catholic, and Calvary/Waseca.

Recently, Sharon Allen turned in the results of almost 10 years of her work on 13 Waseca County cemeteries. The data and images are digitally stored on CDs and are indexed. The cemeteries include: Immanuel-Freedom, Alma City, Smith Mill, Cedar Hill, St. Paul's Evangelical, Zoar's, First Lutheran, St. Joseph's Community, St. John Evangelical Lutheran, Otisco-Lemond, Calvary/New Richland, St. Olaf and Neil's Farm. Sharon has also been diligently working on Woodville Cemetery for the last 10 years; it's almost ready to hand in. We deeply appreciate

the dedication this project has received from our volunteers for over a decade. Cemetery resources are used regularly by visitors to the Bailey-Lewer Research Library. END



The Museum Shop is open and stocked with more Vintage Personalized metal signs!

They're fun for decorating dens, cabins, lobbies, porches, and family rooms! New selections arriving soon in time for early holiday shopping. The WCHS

Museum Shop is open during regular hours, Tues-Fri, 9-5.



Mary Lou Denn won the "Clear Lake" vintage boat cushion at last July's Chautauqua Survey drawing! Thanks, Mary Lou, for participating!



MORE PHOTOS FROM LAST SUMMER . . . COUNTY FAIR, CHAUTAUQUA, PARADES!



Thanks! Members, Donors & Volunteers!

As of June 1-Sept 30, 2012

Space does not allow print-ing entire membership list. These are quarterly new/renewed members, donations, acknowledgments.

Our Lifetime Members

* New in 2012

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, Sigri
Horner, Margaret
Johnson, Ronald J.
Kopischke, Gerald & Barbara*
Lewer, Henry & Phyllis*
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

Allen, Sharon
Amsrud, Mary
Blume, Marilyn
Bohmbach, Vivian
Buesing, Orville
Buum, Karen & Marty
Calvert, Connie
Cypher, Lynda
Dettmer, Matt & Abby
Dobberstein, Gary & Deb
Dressler, Paul & Carol
Dunn, Dave & Melissa
Evers, Craig & Linda
Ewert, Margaret
Forrest, Helen (Sally) M.
Forsythe, Diane
Fox, Jim & Elaine

Fredrick, Pam
Galvin, Carroll & Grace
Gasner, Eunice
Gauger, Barb
Grable, Suzanne
Graham, Barbara
Guentzel, Richard
Gutfleisch, John & Tracy
Halvorson, Michael & Jean
Hand, Larry
Harguth, Char
Hoffman, Betty L.
Hoversten, Pearl
Hoversten, William & Patricia
Hunter, Robert
Jeddeloh, Irene
Johnson, Cynthia
Johnson, Judeen O.
Johnson, Maureen
Kelly, George
King, Jim & Barb
Kinney, Linda
Krienke, Warren
Larson, Tink
Lewer, Henry & Phyllis
McIntire, Betty
Meyer, Marlene
Miller, Al & Donna
Morrissey, Mike
Nelson-Deppe, Nancy
Norman, Beverlee
Penny, Tim & Sandy
Prail, Bob & Jan
Reak, Bonnie
Roesler, Robert
Rogers, Clinton
Rosenthal, Kathleen
Routh, Warren
Sanders, Wayne R.
Scheffler, Charlene
Schultz, Harlan
Starkey, Brenda
Suttief, JoAnn
Sutter, Dorothea
Tetzloff, Jim
Tlougan, Les & Karen
Waggoner, Linda
Welch, Eugene
Wildgrube, Barb
Wildgrube, Bev
Wright, Myrna
Youngberg, Katie
Youngberg, Henry
Youngberg, Oliver

New \$100 Sustaining Member

Jeddeloh, Irene
Gasner, Eunice
Halvorson, Michael & Jean

New Members

Albrecht, Louis P.
Elsner, Arlene
Fritz, Loren
Horne, Anita

Jerabek, Barbara
Joecks, Judy
McDonough, Shawn
Mittelsteadt, Gary
Pancerzewski, C.G.
Pettengell, LuEllen
Poppe, Lisa
Robertson, Karen
Sersland, Carol
Simpson, James
Walker, Lynn
Weed, Al
Wendland, Diane

2012 Appropriations Rec'd:

Blooming Grove Township
Vivian Township
Woodville Township
Iosco Township
New Richland Township
Freedom Township
Wilton Township
St. Mary Township
Alton Township
Byron Township
Otisco Township
Janesville Township
City of New Richland
City of Waseca
Waseca County

Restricted Grants Rec'd

ADA Compliancy Project:
MHS Legacy grant, \$48,185
WAF grant, \$1,000
Chautauqua 2012:
PLRAC, \$960

Unrestricted Donations Rec'd

Don & Margaret Wynnemer
Barbara Herme
Blooming Grove All-in-One Fund
Itron Employees' Book Sale
Exxon-Mobil Foundation

Restricted Donations Rec'd

For Eco-Bus at Chautauqua:
Waseca Community Education
Waseca Lakes Association
For the Frank & Barbara Good-speed Endowment Fund:
By bequest from Dorothy Moriarty

History Partner Pledges

First National Bank, 2011, 2012,
2013

Memorials, Restricted

**In memory of Dr. Leland West
to the WCHS Endowment Fund**
by Rod & Ruth Searle

Memorials, Unrestricted

In memory of Lavern Ewert

by Margaret Ewert
In memory of Bethel Perkins
by Donna Fostveit
In memory of Jean Mittelsteadt
by Norma Witt
by Donna Fostveit
In memory of Dr. Leland West
by Donna Fostveit
In memory of Louis Kopischke
by Donna Fostveit
In memory of Vern Moe
by Donna Fostveit
In memory of David Krampitz
by Sylvia Krampitz & family
by Gene & Kathy Rosenthal
In memory of John "Buster" Kaupa
by Donna Fostveit
In memory of Wayne "Bumps" Brown
by Donna Fostveit
by Rod & Ruth Searle
by Henry & Phyllis Lewer
In memory of Marilyn Lau
by Henry & Phyllis Lewer
In memory of Dave Gehloff
by Gene & Kathy Rosenthal

Thanks to Volunteers this Summer!

David/Penny Anderson
Audra Boyer
Dawn Briggs
Shanae Bursham
Barb Cliff
Gary Deml
Charles/Kathy Espe
Diane Forsythe
Donna Fostveit
Barbara Gauger
Mary Sue Gerdt
Larry/Jan Hofmann
Harlan Holmquist
Jody Johnson
Karl Jones
Barb Kiesler
Jim/Barb King
Morgan King
LDS Elders
Jean Lundquist
Nancy Nelson-Deppe
Hannah & Caitlin Parkinen
Eileen Peterson
Tom Piche
Ron/Pat Purcell
Chase Robinson
Laura Rohde
Sydney & Spencer Sather
Rod/Ruth Searle
Gary Streng
Suburban Furniture's Aaron & Tim,
Linda Thornton
Jim Tippy
Twylla Vetsch & Girl Scouts
Henry Youngberg
Katie Youngberg
Don Zwach

Waseca County Historical Society

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In 2013—Celebrating **75** Years

Membership Renewal Date



Waseca County Historical Society & Byron Township Board

Out-in-the-County Brunch & WCHS ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, October 28, 2012

11:30-1:30 PM / Matawan School, 20650 67th Street in Matawan

PAID RESERVATIONS DUE October 24, \$8 per person, call 507-835-7700 to reserve.
Space is limited. Call NOW to reserve.



JOIN US!