



Yesterday 1905 and today 2017— blended into something very special using a little technology.

Thirteen Civil War veterans posed around the cannon outside the Waseca County Courthouse circa 1905. Identified L-R: George A. Smith, Co. A, 8th Maine Infantry; James H. Murphy, 10th Wisconsin Battery; Sam Proechel, Co. E, 26th Wisconsin Infantry. Standing: Joseph Young, Co. A, 96th Illinois Infantry. Seated left of cannon: Daniel Koechel, Co. D, 4th Wisconsin H.A.. Standing left of cannon: L.C. Wheelock, Co. F, 95th Illinois Infantry. Standing right of cannon: Harry A. Read, Co. F., 28th Iowa Infantry. Sitting right of cannon: Henry Geist, Co. C., 4th Wisconsin Cavalry; Samuel Frost Wyman, Co. I., 3rd Minnesota Infantry; Nels Johnson, Co. A., 11th Wisconsin Infantry. Standing, D.J. Dodge, Co. C., 2nd Minnesota Cavalry. Sitting in front of Dodge: Wm. Hoover, Co. G., 5th Minnesota Infantry. Far right: A.F. Wolcott, Co. K., 1st Minnesota H.A.

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Museum Hours

Open Tuesdays-Fridays, 9-5

Bailey-Lewer Library

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



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Blending Waseca's Past and Present

I often find myself browsing the internet and scrolling through Pinterest looking for new projects and ideas. During one of these sessions, I happened upon a project by a Dutch historian, Jo Hedwig Teeuwisse, called "Ghosts of History".

(<https://www.facebook.com/thenandnowghostsofhistory>)



She blends photographs taken during World War II with some taken from the same location in present day. I was familiar with the collection of photos from Waseca's past available at the Waseca County Historical Society, and her project inspired me to start a similar project with our local community's history. Armed with my digital camera and some basic Photoshop training from my husband, I set off to create these images that blend Waseca's

past and present. ***Please check out the cover and pages 5, 6 and 7 for more images.*** —Vanessa Zimprich, WCHS Collections



NORTH STATE STREET & THE SANDRETSKY BUILDING

This 1894 view of the east side of North State Street captured four of the nearby store fronts. The one story laundry building was one of two Chinese laundries that were on State Street in the 1890s. Julius and Susie Sandretzky are the two children standing under the striped awning of the E.C. Sandretzky Building, the only original building to remain today. Three men and a small child posed in front of the meat market that occupied the fourth two-story building. My persistence paid off when trying to capture a photograph of the current El Molino Building. Constant traffic from both directions, parked cars, sunlight and shadows made it a challenge.





Waseca Journal-Radical, April 4, 1917

Lewer Building is Completed

Waseca's Biggest Business Block Now Practically Finished. It is Credit to Our City.

The splendid new Lewer Garage building, the biggest business block ever constructed in Waseca, is now practically completed. The last brick has been laid in the colossal structure and almost the last finishing touches to its interior have been made.

The new structure, besides being the most imposing one of its kind in this city, is pronounced by competent outside critics to be the most elaborate garage building in the state outside of the twin cities. It is a three-story block, constructed of twin-city full-range rug brick. The dimensions of the entire building are 130 by 54 feet. Concrete pier, beam and joist construction is employed thru out.

It has taken about a year to place this magnificent new block on the corner of Second and Oak streets. On April first of last year, work was started in tearing down the Madden buildings on the site, which were historic structures. The lumber was removed, and about April 5, the work of excavating for the new building was commenced. The excavation was completed, and work started on the building about July 2.

The entire cost of the building will approximate \$50,000. . .



LEWER BUILDING (Left page)

South State Street's corner brick building known as the E.W. Lewer Garage and then later on as the Lewer Auto Company was originally a three-story structure. The building's basement was home to the E.E. Webber Barber Shop and the L.J. Fiebiger Tailoring Establishment. G.M. Hartson Confectionery Store was on the main floor. Dr. F.A. Swartwood's offices and the Waseca Co-operative Milling Company's offices were on the second floor. The third floor was used by the Lewer Garage as a paint shop and for storage purposes. Lightning hit the building on September 1, 1966 causing the third floor to be destroyed by fire. The present day photograph visible here shows the first floor of the building being used as offices for H&R Block and was taken exactly 100 years after this building was constructed.



PRESTON & STUCKY DRUGS

The Preston & Stucky Drug Store fire happened the day after Christmas in 1908. A crowd of people poured into the streets to view the ruins afterward. The brick Farmers National Bank building on the corner is the only building in the original photo that still survives to this day. It has since been used by the EF Johnson company as a museum, but is currently awaiting its next purpose. The drug store was rebuilt and today houses the Edward Jones Investment offices. A quiet day on State Street allowed me to get this photograph in only four takes.



Overland Light Four 5-Passenger Touring Car

32-horsepower en bloc motor
Auto-Lite starting and lighting
Vacuum gasoline system
106-inch wheelbase
31 x 4-inch tires, non-skid rear
Cantilever rear springs

Finish: Body Brewster green, with ivory striping; wheels, fenders and trimmings black

\$695



Overland Light Four 4-Passenger Country Club

32-horsepower en bloc motor
Auto-Lite starting and lighting
Vacuum gasoline system
104-inch wheelbase
31 x 4-inch tires, non-skid rear
Cantilever rear springs

Finish: Battleship gray, with black fenders and trimmings, and red wire wheels.

\$795

E. W. Lewer Garage
Distributors
Waseca, Minnesota
Lewer & Woodhall, Waldorf



“This is a kind
of spiritual photography!”

—Sheila Morris

PHEASANT CAFÉ INTERIOR

Governor Orville Freeman visited Waseca for Dairy month in June of 1955. During his lunch break at the Pheasant Cafe he was interrupted by a young girl in a princess dress asking for him to sign her autograph booklet. Orville Freeman was born 9 May 1918 and died 20 February 2003. Freeman was an American Democratic politician who served as the 29th Governor of Minnesota from 5 January 1955 to 2 January 1961. Upon entering into the Pheasant Cafe, the only notable changes were a move of the metal coat rack, new tables and different staff in the kitchen; otherwise, the Pheasant Cafe has not changed too much in the past years!



DECORATION DAY ON ELM AVENUE

This Decoration Day Parade photo was my first experiment in this project. In studying the original, it appeared to have been taken from the upper story of the Didra Building in downtown Waseca. Thanks to Barb and Mark Buker at Personalized Printing and the current tenants of the upstairs apartment, I was able to reach the vantage point that the original photographer had in 1910. Mark was kind enough to remove the screen from the window where I then proceeded to snap photographs in between red lights, passing cars and pedestrians. Thirty minutes and 138 images later, I recreated nearly the exact angle and distance of the original photo. In the original image, crowds of people lined both sides of Elm Avenue near the intersection with State Street. Behind them you can see the building that housed the First National Bank and the dental offices of Dr. F. W. Prail, which present day is home to The Daily Grind, ICAN offices, and apartments.



E.F. JOHNSON CO.

This image shows the E.F. Johnson Headquarters building at Second Street southwest, draped with red, white and blue bunting in 1944. Employees are gathered outside to watch the recently received Army-Navy "E" Award banner go up on the company flagpole. Currently this building is home to the Starfire Event Center which means getting a picture without cars parked in front was all about timing.



Dear Members

A quarterly message from the Co-Executive Directors

Here comes Summer!

To all of our faithful members who love to attend the Spring Luncheon Series and our July Chautauqua—thank you for your patience and continued support, but it has been a nice “break” to take this time to rethink what other kinds of programs you would like during the year. We appreciate your input! We now look forward to spending the Fourth of July with our families. Meanwhile we are working with our Board of Directors to prioritize our next projects and programs. The Board of Directors held some board training with MAP for Nonprofits/Nonprofits Assistance Fund. Here is what has been happening at WCHS:

Summer Saturdays start June 3

From June 3 through August 26 the Waseca County History Center will be open 12-3 p.m. We are very proud of the **Waseca County Timeline of Unique Stories** exhibit and the **First Settlements Remembered** exhibit continuing over the summer. We invite everyone to visit, including all those family and school reunions. With Free Admission, the Saturdays hours add to our



regular hours of Tues-Fri, 9-5. Do call ahead if you need to make special ar-

all the participating history museums are less than an hour apart. We’re working on it this summer.

Palmer Tag-Along Tour

The town of Palmer was once located in the SW corner of Section 13, Iosco Township. Palmer was first known as Palmer Station, started shortly after the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad platted its north-south route through Waseca County in 1877. Although there was activity, the town of Palmer would not actually get platted until 1915. There was a store, creamery, church, schoolhouse, but no homes were actually built in Palmer. It existed for a short time, but its memory has been faithfully reconstructed by Robert Hagen. He and Joan Mooney scheduled the Tag-Along Tour on May 4. A comfortable group of WCHS members gathered on a beautiful spring evening’s walk to Palmer, Minnesota.

We are grateful to Hagen for inspiring the WCHS staff to present the current exhibit of all the “First Settlements of Waseca County”. Please visit us and learn much more about the 12 small towns that came and went. The exhibit will continue through the summer.

Teachable Moments for 6th grade



rangements beyond those hours. The Bailey-Lewer Library will be open on Saturdays by appointment only. The museum and library are ADA compliant. *If you would like to apply to be a volunteer host for a Summer Saturday, please call us, 835-7700.*

A new program starting this summer, concerning all museums across the nation is the Blue Star Museums promotion. WCHS as well as most of the SoMN History members will be Blue Star Museums, which means we will offer free admission to all visiting active military and their families. As WCHS already offers free admission to visitors, we will provide each active soldier a free WCHS one-year membership—value \$35.

SoMN History Website: somnhistory.com

Last month I mentioned our collaboration with five other historical museums in southern Minnesota to market history. It’s called “SoMN History.”



There will be a website with framed tours and information for weekend and mid-week visitors who may be families, couples, retirees, family historians, homeschoolers, and others. The point is

Teachable Moments at the Museum

LESSON PLAN: Timeline of Unique Stories from Waseca County

Sixth Graders Visit the History Center

On April 13 and 20 we finally welcomed the 6th grade classes of Waseca and Janesville for an hour of “Teachable Moments at the Museum.” This has been in the planning for several years in conjunction with the completion of the Timeline exhibit. This was only made possible by the volunteer/teacher/hosts and the school teachers. We expect New Richland to join in next year. The coordination of historical lesson plans that work with what is required at the sixth grade level—Minnesota history took some effort, and with transportation secured, it happened. Thanks to WCHS Board Members—Dave Zika, Marty Boom, Roger Haug, Dave Dunn, Judy Joecks,

Audrey Weiske, Marilee Reck, Dawn Halgren, and Linda Grant, and to volunteer Andy Breck; and our staff—Vanessa Zimprich, Pauline Fenelon, Linda Taylor, Joan Mooney, Jan Hunter and Sheila Morris.

The result was well-behaved students who listened and learned at each of the four learning stations: 1—What’s This Thing? Artifacts From the Past; 2—What’s in the Museum Basement? Oh My! 3—The Timeline of Unique Stories; 4—What’s Genealogy? And, Do You Know Wa-secrets? A few amazed students returned after school bringing siblings and one grandmother who helped her grandchild with a family tree. The plan is to present this curriculum annually.



Museum Building Built as a Church—100 Years Ago

“First Methodist Church Burned”

Waseca Journal, February 1, 1917

The structure of wood that was the Waseca Methodist Episcopal Church was totally destroyed by fire. “While, look you, it was only last January 26, that the historic Methodist church in this city arose heavenwards in a column of dense smoke, and on December 16, of this same year, we find a brand new, beautiful little church to take its place—and presto, it’s also paid for. The total cost of the building and furnishing was \$23,500, the ground cost \$3,700, and the organ \$2,500.

The exterior of the building is reddish-brown faced brick, trimmed with Kasota stone. It is about 62 feet square, with a height of 30 feet. At the front of the building, two big round stone pillars, 20 inches in diameter, give it an imposing appearance. The church sets 22 feet in from the public sidewalk.

Methodist Church Interiors

It was important for the minister to be heard throughout the main worship space as well as the open balcony above. Therefore, the round dome above was an acoustical feature that served that practical purpose. Even now, one can be heard easily across the balcony. High school choir voices are *exhaling* just as the early services in this church building were.

The main auditorium is a room 37 by 48 feet. The wall back of the pulpit is curved. The platform upon which the pulpit is placed is 13 feet on either side with a circular front. Huge pillars from the floor to the ceiling rise on either side of the platform.

Later in 1938 . . .

The organizing of the Waseca County Historical Society is in the minds of several prominent people: On February 26, 1938, the first meeting of the new Waseca County Historical Society was held. Present were Bob Hodgson, Herman Panzram, Herman Peterson, J. P. Coughlin, Judge Fred W. Senn, Dana L. Wobschall, G. P. Madden, J. N. Moonan, Albert Bartelt, W. A. Clement, Chas. A. Bailer, Mrs. Martha Cummings, Mrs. F. A. Wood, Mrs. F.T. Day, Mrs. R. P. Ward, Arnold Runnerstrom, L. A. Brandvold, Art Brisbane.

The new organization’s first site was the log cabin contributed by Mr. Oleson and Mr. Sponberg with the assistance of Erick Sjostrand, and reconstructed behind the courthouse in 1940.



A Church Becomes a Museum

On September 7, 1962 the Methodist Episcopal Church conducted its final worship services, and moves into a new church building as Faith United Methodist at 8th St. N.E. and 4th Avenue.

The next year, 1963 the former Methodist church building was purchased by the Johnson brothers—Marvin, Edgar and Everett and their wives for \$16,000, and given to the Society for a museum. Remodeling was the next step and the more it was studied, the more difficult it proved to be. The expenses began to mount and finances were short. The Johnson brothers and their wives again came to the rescue and donated the \$20,000 to remodel the building.

Do you remember attending services here? Was there a children’s playtime sandbox in the basement? And what was

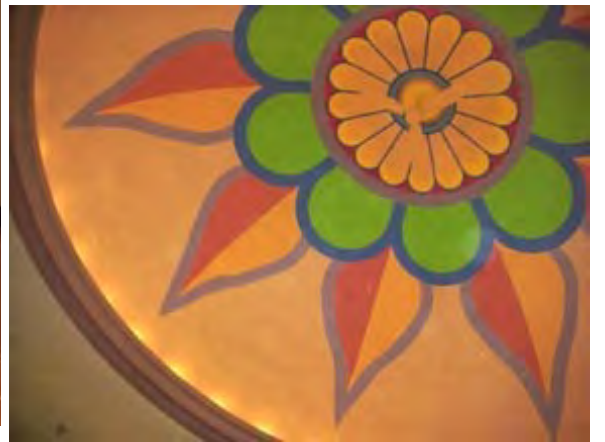
that *dare* extended to playmates to walk all around the church on the narrow ledge? What was that club called?

A Century Later

We are extremely happy to report that our 100-year old museum building is in great shape having undergone these improvements just during the last 10 years: New furnace, roof, bell tower, stained glass windows, lighting upgrades, ADA compliance, new entrance doors, main floor unisex restroom, additional balcony support, interior wall restoration, efficient collection storage shelves, front sidewalk/steps replacement, addition of event banners, and the permanent Timeline exhibit—WHEW! We’re ready to go for another 100 . . .

See the photos on the next page with all those improvements!

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We are grateful for so much generosity!

From March to June 1, 2017

These are the quarterly renewals and new members, donations, and acknowledgements. The Annual Report will list all members.

New Members

Cahill, Mike
Curry, Steve
Dyngeland, Kari
Josephes, Richard
Koechel, Lynn
Miller, Linda
Perez, David
Ring, David
Schoonover, Lorna
Sommers, Mark
Steinberg, Garrett
Syvertson, Sharon
Trahms, Sherry

Renewed Members

Aldrich, Donald
Berger, Doris
Born, Rodney
Breck, Andrew
Buum, Marty & Karen
Byron, Paul & Mayone
Cunningham, Sheila
Eichorst, Fred
Fell, June
Groskreutz, Dale
Hintz, Joanne
Hagen, Robert
Harter, Lorraine
Johnson, Jody
Kroeger, Lester & Jane
Lucas, Chuck
Lundquist, Jean & Olof
McCarthy, Virginia
McDonough, Shawn
Meyer, Clark
Nelson, John
Peterson, Melissa
Purcell, Ron & Pat
Rathmann, Duane & Cheryl
Roemhildt, Scott
Rogers, Clinton
Ryan, Thomas



Schultz, Kent
Taylor, Linda
Wolff, Dennis & Beth Ann

Year-end Annual Fund & Other Donations

Exchange Club of Waseca: \$50.00 towards the 6th Grade Program
Nicolin, Jay/Nancy

Grants

Minnesota Historical & Cultural Heritage Grant: \$5,360 for the *Microfilm Waseca County Newspapers* project

Memorials

In memory of Willie Mahler

by Mark B. Long

In memory of Edwin "Bud" Priebe

by Dale & Judy Joecks

by Henry & Phyllis Lewer

by Donna Fostveit

In memory of Linda Nitz

by Donna Fostveit

In memory of Bernice Kuehn

by Donna Fostveit

In memory of Lynne Swenson

by Donna Fostveit

In memory of Maynard Buland

by Donna Fostveit

In memory of Nancy and Bill Krueger

by Donald and Ruth Ann Miller

by Bob and Janette Larson

by Delency and JoAnn Suttliet

In memory of Ardis Sutter

by Donald and Ruth Ann Miller

by Bob and Janette Larson

by Delency and JoAnn Suttliet

In memory of Mary Bolduan

by Bob and Janette Larson

by Delency and JoAnn Suttliet

In memory of Clarence (Stormie) Faber

by Bob and Janette Larson

by Delency and JoAnn Suttliet

In memory of Helen M. Anderson

by Friends of the Family

In memory of Helen Ewert

by Doris Berger

Appropriations

Byron Township, \$250
St. Mary Township, \$200
Freedom Township, \$150
Woodville Township, \$150
Alton Township, \$400

Volunteers

Karl Jones
Dave Dunn
Marty Buum
Dave Zika
Roger Haug
Margaret Hasslen
Dawn Halgren
Linda Grant
Judy Joecks
Marilee Reck
Audrey Weiske
Andrew Breck
Robert Hagen
Marty Tesch
Clark Meyer
Cory Boje
Jan Hunter
Gladys Carlson
Kathy Oftedahl
Donna Fostveit



Support WCHS!

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Designate "Waseca County Historical Society"—and a portion will be donated!

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Donate to the Hofmann Apiaries Improvement Fund

Make your tax-deductible check payable:

"Waseca County Historical Society" and write on the check memo:

"Hofmann Apiaries Capital Improvement Fund"

Mail to: **Waseca County Historical Society, 315—2nd Avenue NE, Waseca, MN 56093**



If you have any questions, please contact Joan Mooney, 507-835-7700,

or program@historical.waseca.mn.us **Visit: www.hofmannapiaries.org**

Advisory Board: Larry and Jan Hofmann, Newell Searle, Gregg Johnson, Boyd Fuller, Jurgen Peters, Ron Purcell, Colleen Carlson, Jim Jewison, and Joan Mooney





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Membership Renewal Date



**First Settlements
REMEMBERED**
Towns & Villages of Waseca County



SOUTH STATE STREET

This is a view from the middle of South State Street looking north. Standing in the middle of the road to accomplish this picture was a bit dangerous in the 1920s as well as in 2017. Many of these original and historic buildings still remain in our downtown area nearly 100 years later—the former Waverly Hotel (right) and the Lower building (left).

For those of you who enjoy the WCHS collection photos, we hope this series, created by Vanessa Zimprich, has provided a distinctive and creative perspective on our Waseca history!

Thank you Vanessa, for your skill and your passion!