



Waseca County Historical Society

315 2nd Avenue N.E. | P.O. Box 314

Waseca, MN 56093



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Membership Renewal Date



**Waseca
County
History
Center**



History Notes

www.historical.waseca.mn.us

315 NE 2nd Avenue Waseca MN 56093

507.835.7700

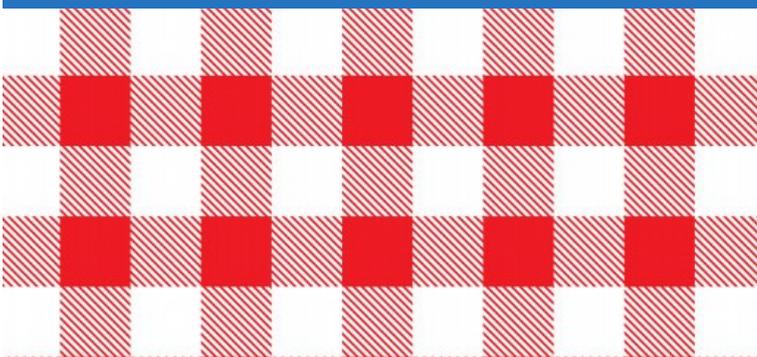


What's Inside: Picnicking in Waseca County

Upcoming Events:

July 4th: LakeFest

**July 14-18: Waseca Co. Fair and
Used Book Sale**



History Notes is a publication of the Waseca County Historical Society ©2021
P.O. Box 314, Waseca, MN 56093
315 Second Avenue N.E., 507-835-7700
www.historical.waseca.mn.us

WCHS 2021 Board of Directors:

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Linda Finley
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Brian Harguth (Waseca Co. Commissioner)
Gregg Johnson
Trevor Kanewischer
Jackie Peters
Carol Raimann
Dave Zika

Staff:

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Grant Administration, Programs & Research
director@historical.waseca.mn.us

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paulinef@historical.waseca.mn.us

Amanda Larkin, Administrative Assistant
amandl@historical.waseca.mn.us

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

SPRING HOURS

Museum

Open Tuesdays-Fridays, 9-5
Thursday 9:00-4:30 p.m.

Bailey-Lewer Library Research

Open Tuesdays and Fridays, 9-5

Traveling?

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



*Hofmann Apiaries
Phase I Restoration
Was funded in part by
the Waseca Area
Foundation Community
Grants
and Funds provided by
the State of Minnesota
from the Arts and
Cultural Heritage fund
through the Minnesota
Historical Society.*



From the Executive Director

“Crawling Out of COVID”

Joan Mooney

Dear Members,

Thank goodness the COVID 19 virus cases are in decline. WCHS Staff and

Board are excited to see you all out and about again. We were fortunate to be able to stay open in some capacity while other businesses shuttered or really had to get

creative in a hurry to hang in there. Thank you for the support we have received as well as for supporting our local businesses during this tough time.

Good Things

The WCHS Board of Directors and Amanda held our first ever

“Good Stuff Garage Sale” in May at Hodgson Hall. Thanks to all who donated and attended. We raised over \$3000!

LakeFest 2021

When Waseca Art Center Director Andrew Breck and I heard the news that there may be no LakeFest on the 4th of July we sprung into action. Thanks to a grant from the Waseca Area Foundation we are able to bring you an afternoon/evening of music entertainment.

Music begins at 3 p.m. Bring your own everything! No glass! Limited food available ,so how about picnicking? It’s what you do on the 4th of July!

The WCHS Used Book Sale will take place in Hodgson Hall during the Waseca County Fair. We are preparing Hodgson Hall and acclimating to the 90 degree temps. That is what we do around fair time in Waseca. **We need volunteers** to help us with book sales, concessions and hosting. Please consider the gift of “time” which we know is most valuable in our busy lives.

Hofmann Apiaries Update

We are still waiting for the state legislature to pass the Omnibus Environmental bill that includes funding for Phase 2 restoration of the wax shed and honey house. In the mean time, Larry Hofmann is recovering from a nasty fall. The good news is he is healing well but is limited in what he can do. We may have to postpone a get together for this season - We’ll keep you updated.

WCHS Bailey/Lewer House is ready to host the **Waseca Area Garden Tours** in August, if they are happening. If so, Hofmann Apiaries Pollinator Gardens will be one of the stops! Check Facebook or our website for updates as we progress through the summer months.

It feels so good to make plans again!

Hope to see you,

Joan



Second Quarter Contributions: March 24th, 2021 – June 23rd, 2021

Renewing Members

Barbknecht, Rosanne
 Bathke, Dr. Jon and Janis
 Born, Rodney
 Buland, Eric
 Carlson, Gladys
 Curran, Helen
 Edwards, Tom
 Eichorst, Fred
 Flitsch, Kathleen
 Gash, Meredith
 Groskreutz, Dale and Lynn
 Harter, Lorraine
 Herme, Barbara
 Hintz, Joanne
 Hogan, James
 Hovelsrud, Susan
 Ihrke, Mary
 Klinger, Robert
 Kurkoski, Thomas and Cheryl
 McCarthy, Virginia
 Meyer, Clark
 Peterson, Sharon
 Richard, Deborah
 Tesch, Russell and Marie
 Tollefson, Kathryn
 Twisselman, Alan
 Wabner, Dave and Berni
 Wilder, Sheryl
 Williams, Jack and Mary
 Wynnemer, Jody
 Youngberg, Katie

New Members

Bigler, Jeffrey and Marnie
 Brandenburg, Lisa
 Bromberg, Valerie
 Cahill, Kathleen
 Crellin, Kathleen
 Gerdes, Douglas
 Koechel, Grant
 Ohman, Douglas

Appropriations

Alton Township
 Byron Township
 Woodville Township

Donations

Barbknecht, Rosanne
 Thrivent Financial
 Wynnemer, Jody

Memorials and Honorariums

In memory of Henry Lewer
 by Dave Dunn
 In memory of Henry Lewer
 by Neil and Sharon Fruechte
 In memory of Henry Lewer
 by Judy and Dale Joecks
 In memory of Henry Lewer
 by Michael and Beatrice O'Brien
 In memory of Henry Lewer
 by Nancy Tollefson
 In memory of Henry Lewer by Roundbank
 In memory of Henry Lewer
 by Kristi Kampmeyer
 In memory of Henry Lewer
 by Marilyn Kron
 In memory of Henry Lewer
 by Gary Vander Vorst
 In memory of Henry Lewer
 by Larry Thompson
 In memory of Henry Lewer
 by Tim Wenzel
 In memory of Henry and Phyllis Lewer
 by Kristi Kampmeyer
 In memory of Henry Lewer
 by Paul and Pamela Heiser
 In memory of Henry Lewer
 by John and Lisa Kjentvet
 In memory of Henry Lewer
 by Steven and Susan Jameson
 In memory of Henry Lewer
 by Deborah Vetter
 In memory of Henry Lewer
 by Richard and Jane Thomez
 In memory of Henry Lewer
 by Ruth Ann Priebe
 In memory of Henry Lewer
 by Janet Will
 In memory of Henry Lewer
 by Robert and Rose Matthews
 In memory of Henry Lewer
 by Patrick Hergott
 In memory of Henry Lewer
 by Thomas and Karen Partridge
 In memory of Henry Lewer
 by Irene Mulcahey
 In memory of Henry Lewer
 by Merrill and Mary Schultz
 In memory of Henry Lewer
 by Timothy and Sandra Penny
 In memory of Henry Lewer
 by Diane Beckmann
 In memory of Henry Lewer
 by Jon and Judy Greeney

Memorials and Honorariums Continued

In memory of Henry Lewer
 by Waseca Chrysler Center
 In memory of Henry Lewer
 by Russell and Marie Tesch
 In memory of Henry Lewer
 by Bonnie Lewer
 In memory of Henry Lewer
 by Howard and Sharon Lewer
 In memory of Henry Lewer
 by Grove and Carol Brown
 In memory of Henry Lewer
 by Loren and Janet Wichmann
 In memory of Henry Lewer
 by Bob and Jean Miller
 In memory of Henry Lewer
 by Jeffrey Fette
 In memory of Henry Lewer
 by Donna Fostveit
 In memory of Henry Lewer
 by Carol Wobschall
 In memory of Henry Lewer
 by Harold Zabel
 In memory of Henry Lewer
 by Bruce and Sharon Eklund
 In memory of Henry Lewer
 by Mary Susan McKay
 In memory of Henry and Phyllis Lewer
 by C. A. Anthony
 In memory of Mary Jo Lynch-Fanning
 by Donna Fostveit
 In memory of Zita Mittelstaedt
 by Norma Witt
 In memory of Dick and Julie Wynnemer
 by Jody Wynnemer
 In memory of Jay Nelson
 by Donna Fostveit
 In memory of Helen Roe
 by Carol Anthony

New Lifetime Members

Bartelt, Craig

Volunteers

Beckmann, Diane
 Groskreutz, Dale
 Halgren, Dawn
 Peters, Jackie
 Finley, Linda
 Raimann, Carol
 Zika, Dave

Picnicking in Waseca County

by Amanda Larkin

Now that summer is in full swing and the 4th of July holiday is just around the corner, many of us are spending much more of our time outdoors. Friends and families are seeking faraway vacation spots, beautiful scenery and new experiences. If you do not want to travel as far, you may not even have to leave the county to discover some great area vacation spots. Waseca County has over 1,200 acres of lakes and 450 acres of park land! These areas provide the perfect opportunity for picnicking, hiking and many other outdoor activities.

We have listed four places (with a little of their history) that you may not have visited lately if ever:



1. Courthouse park. This park is located approximately 4 miles south of the city of Waseca. It is a 175-acre park near the Le Sueur River that features picnicking areas, a playground, hiking and horseback riding trails, a horse-shoe pit, and multiple camping sites. Incidentally, you might want to keep in mind that the trails are also groomed in the winter for cross country skiing. Why “Courthouse” park? The south end of the park extends to the Wilton Bridge and the edge of the former town of Wilton where the first Waseca County courthouse was once located and is marked by a historic plaque. A plaque also marks the location of a stage coach trail that once travelled through the area on its way to Wilton. You can walk the same trail that the coach took to cross the river.

2. St. Olaf Lake Park. Travelling northeast of New Richland approximately three and a half miles, you will find this fine recreational area. You can take advantage of its concession stand managed by the Red Leaf Café of New Richland serving snacks, beverages and occasional meals. The park also offers grills, a playground and a nice swimming beach. Adjoining the park back in the day was a Lake Store built in 1897 by a Mr. H. K. Stearns. Mr. Stearns operated it and a boat rental business until his death in 1905. It was then owned by Anton Sybilrud until 1930. The next owner was Selmer Langlie. After three years of ownership, a fire destroyed the store on December 28th, 1993. Undaunted by the fire, Langlie rebuilt the store and also added a nearby roller skating rink which boosted the lakeside appeal of his business. On a side note, when World War II broke out, Langlie



was called to serve on the European front, leaving his wife, Vida to run the store. After a particular brutal battle, Langlie was taken prisoner in Germany. Vida was informed that her husband was missing in action. After several weeks of not knowing where her husband was, she was notified of his status and later of his release. He was released on a medical discharge and was able to return home to run his store again in 1945. After two more years, he sold the store in 1947 to Gilbert and Lillian Bagaason. Later the Bagaasons sold the store to Mr. and Mrs. Al Walskog who owned it until 1972 when it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bott. Finally, Tom Vaith purchased the store, closed the business and used it as his residence until it burned down during the Halloween Blizzard of 1991. Thus ended the 90-year history of the St. Olaf Lake Store.



3. Lakeview Park. If you travel to the west end of the county, and take Main Street north through Janesville, you will discover the area's pride and joy. Located on the south end of Lake Elysian, this great recreational area offers ball fields, a boat landing, and a new fishing dock. Rising above the area is the beautiful Lakeview Park with its picnic pavilions and the deer and emu habitat. In 1947, the Berndt family purchased the twenty acres of land that is now Lakeview Park. A park caretaker's house was constructed there in 1957. With a caretaker in place, the local Sportsmen's Club decided to install fencing and create an animal viewing area for the public. In 1958, a football field was installed and used by the Janesville High School

for the next twelve years. Between 1975 and 1979, a softball field, additional fencing, a new bathhouse, parking lots and a concession stand were constructed. A public swimming pool is located nearby in Reinbold's Camping area where you can also park your camper and stay for a getaway. (Fun fact: few people know that the first house erected by a white man in Waseca County was built in 1822 on the borders of Lake Elysian!)

4. Clear Lake Park. This large park is located in northeast Waseca. The City of Waseca purchased the land for the park on the western shore of Clear Lake in 1928. The property had to be groomed and graded to be useable as a park. In 1930 a buckthorn hedge was planted along the north and west borders of the property. Water service was extended to the park and preparations were made for electricity to be installed. The southwest corner of the park was designated as a "tourist park". The addition of a bath house was included in the plan but was put on hold until funds became available. On July 4, 1930, Waseca's newest playground was officially named "Clear Lake Park", the name was selected by a committee from several hundred names submitted by its residents. It was billed as "one of the finest lakes in the southern half of the state", according to the *Waseca Herald*, July 10, 1930. In fact, "Clear Lake" was submitted by five different people: William Guyer, Fred Perkins, Mary Conway, Ed Staehlin and A. C. Barr. The \$5.00 prize was divided equally among the winners! We do not know the exact year a bath house was built in Clear Lake Park, but early photographs show a small bath house even before the park existed. We do know in June of 1938, the new addition to the bath house was completed, a project sponsored by the "Works Progress Administration" (WPA).



There are many more areas you can explore in the county such as Blowers Park, North Shore, Maplewood, and Waldorf's Eustice Park. I hope that the rest of your summer is filled with happy and fun memories with your family and friends. We have such a short amount of time we are comfortably able to enjoy our time spent outdoors in Minnesota, that we need to make every minute count. We can't wait to see you all at the Lakefest and the Fair.



WCHS Word Scramble

READSC EAHRT
 RITTYIN ELRNHAUT
 TS OJNH IEACEVLLAGN LREUANHT
 IVATS TEVCONAN
 TS UPLA TNHREULA
 TS LTHAJRA HLOCIATC
 RIHSTC UMNTMCOI
 THFAI ETUIDN STMTOEIHD
 EGCAR ENHTARLU
 HCRSIT TEH GKIN LNTEARHU
 IRSFT OTAGNEORGCNIAL
 RONTN SECWAA NLTERUAH HCTIIRSAN
 SCAWE AYSWNELE
 EACRG TIPTBSA
 AREL FLIE

A Special Thanks to Ron and Janet Johnson for providing funds to microfilm the Waseca County newspapers from 2017 - 2020. Newspapers can be viewed in the Bailey/Lewer Research Library on our updated microfilm readers also supported by donations from Ron and Janet Johnson. We appreciate this generosity and so do our guests as newspapers are one of our most important resources in our library. **Thank you!**

WCHS is a recipient of
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Pauline Fenelon

Artifact & Library Curator



Jan Hunter

Research & Genealogy



Virginia McCarthy

Research & Genealogy



Amanda Larkin

Admin. Assistant



Word Scramble Answers: Sacred Heart, Trinity Lutheran, St. John Evangelical Lutheran, Vista Covenant, St Paul Lutheran, St. Jarlath Catholic, Christ Community, Faith United Methodist, Grace Lutheran, Christ The King Lutheran, North Waseca Lutheran Christian, Waseca Wesleyan, Grace Baptist, Real Life

Upcoming Events in Waseca

LAKEFEST

JULY 4TH @ CLEAR LAKE PARK
2021

MUSIC:

3 PM

JOE NINO

4 PM

MILLER DENN

5:30

LOS TEQUILEROS

7 PM

THE RESONANT ROGUES
FROM ASHEVILLE, NC



8 PM

**CHARLIE PARR WITH
LIZ DRAPER**



FREE EVENT
RAIN or SHINE
COOLERS & ALCOHOL
PERMITTED
NO GLASS
bring your own lawn
chair or blanket &
PLEASE,
keep our park tidy

10 PM

FIREWORKS

+ FOOD, FUN, and MORE

MADE POSSIBLE BY:



WASECA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

USED BOOK SALE

JULY 14TH-18TH, 2021

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

157th Annual Waseca County Horse Thief Detectives Picnic and Annual Meeting

Sunday, July 4 at NE Park Waseca

11:30 a.m. Arrive and register

Noon-Lunch

1 p.m. Annual Meeting

2 p.m. Games

This schedule may change.

For more information;

Please contact Scott Roemhildt

President Waseca County

Horse Thief Detectives



Ca. 1976 - A gathering of the Waseca County Horse Thief Detective Society at their annual outdoor picnic at the University Southern Experiment Station; Frank Goodspeed, front left, seated; Boyd Fuller, right seated in white shirt; Einer Iversen, standing right in plaid shirt; and Hazel and Fred Halstead, seated right, top.