

Waseca
County
History
Center

HISTORY NOTES

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

www.historical.waseca.mn.us



“Old Stagecoach Days” in Wilton Township
By Judy Joecks

You are invited to attend the Waseca County Historical Society's **Annual Meeting and Dinner**

October 11, 5:30pm
paid registrations must be in by Friday, October 6th



THE HAUNTED LIBRARY
a Riddle and Puzzle Room Experience

BAILEY LEWER RESEARCH LIBRARY

Tickets \$20 at the Waseca Historical Society Museum or the website. Free for members. RSVP is REQUIRED.

Thursday
October 19
6:30pm-10pm



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History Notes is a publication of the Waseca County Historical Society ©2023
P.O. Box 314, Waseca, MN 56093
315 Second Avenue N.E., 507-835-7700
www.historical.waseca.mn.us

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amandal@historical.waseca.mn.us

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

Museum Hours

Open Tuesdays-Fridays, 9-5 p.m.

Bailey-Lewer Library

Open for research Tuesdays and Fridays, 9-5 p.m.

Traveling?

Please call ahead.

WCHS is a recipient of Thrivent Financial Choice Dollars Program

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From the Executive Director

Joan Mooney

My emotions stir as another summer comes to an end. I don't like the darkness already encroaching, even though we still get blasted by heat and humidity, it's dark by 8 p.m. There are still the end of season tasks quickly lining up that I am not ready for. The gardens are retreating, and all the color is quickly fading. So soon—too soon. I don't think I'll ever truly welcome the end of summer. If only the fall could last just a bit longer.....

That being said, we had a very busy summer at WCHS. Fast and furious. Besides the usual summer activities, we had to contend with deaccessioning artifacts from collection—a daunting task right at the beginning of the season. We wrapped up our summer season with celebrating the completion of the restoration of Hofmann Apiaries with an Open House. Thank you to all one hundred and fifty of you who came out to the farm on one of the hottest and most humid days of the summer to explore the buildings and grounds. You even went into the Bee Cellar—a place I won't even go! This was a 12 year endeavor from concept to completion. We can now begin focusing on programs and tours. If you are interested in scheduling a visit, give us a call. The site is not open to the public at all times as it is the private residence of the Hofmanns, however, we will do our best to accommodate interested parties.

Welcome Amy Danielson



We have added a new member to the WCHS Team. Amy will be in charge of marketing and website development. Amy will also assist in exhibit planning and programming. New programs and exhibits are in the works!

First up: **The Haunted Library!** See details on the following page.

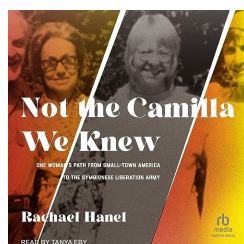
WCHS ANNUAL MEETING and HARVEST DINNER

The WCHS Annual Meeting and Dinner will be held Wednesday, October 11, at the Museum. The Red Leaf Café will be serving a traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings. The invitation and details are included in this newsletter. **Please note paid reservation deadline and no refunds dates stated on invitation.** Featured speaker this year is regional author Rachael Hanel presenting her latest book *Not the Camilla We Knew: One Woman's Life from Small-town America to the Symbionese Liberation Army*.

"The mystery of how an ordinary Minnesota girl came to be, briefly, one of the most wanted domestic terrorists in the United States."

Rachael tells true stories based on her own experiences as well as those of other notable people. Learn more about Rachel and her accomplishments at rachaelhanel.com

Please join us and don't forget to register!



"Behind every act of domestic terrorism there is someone's child whose life took a radical turn for reasons that often remain mysterious. Camilla Hall is a case in point; a pastor's daughter from small-town Minnesota, who eventually joined the ranks of radicals in the notorious Symbionese Liberation Army before dying in a shootout with Los Angeles Police in May 1974. How could a 'good girl' become one of the most wanted domestic terrorists in the United States?" Rachael Hanel tells her story here, revealing both the deep humanity and the extraordinary circumstances of Camilla Hall's life.....rachaelhanel.com



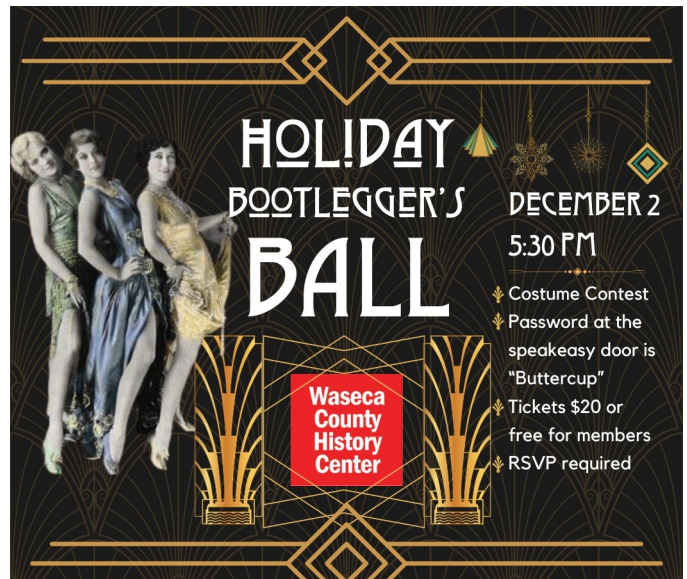
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Waseca County History Center

HOLIDAY BOOTLEGGERS BALL **DECEMBER 2 5:30 PM**

- Costume Contest
- Password at the speakeasy door is "Buttercup"
- Tickets \$20 or free for members
- RSVP required



Waseca County History Center

THE HAUNTED LIBRARY a Riddle and Puzzle Room Experience **BAILEY LEWER RESEARCH LIBRARY**

Tickets \$20. at the Waseca Historical Society Museum or the website. Free for members. **RSVP is REQUIRED.**

Thursday October 19 6:30pm-10pm

Solve the mystery!!



Waseca County History Center

Woodville Cemetery Walking Tour **Sunday, Oct 8 12-4**

- Guided Tours with stories of some of the most interesting gravestones in the cemetery
- Free Will Donation, but RSVP is required
- Rsvp and get more info by phone: (507) 835-2190 website: dsfuneral.com or QR code:



DENNIS STEFFEL OMTVEDT

NEW DONATIONS



A photo portrait of a Waseca County rural one-room school taken in 1953 showing eight children seated at their desks; standing in the background is their teacher, probably Eunice Murphy Amberg (Severin).

If you are able to identify any of the children in this photograph please let us know.

STAFF

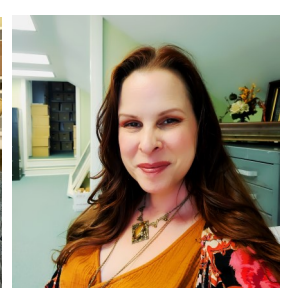
Pauline Fenelon
Artifact & Library Curator

Jan Hunter
Research & Genealogy

Virginia McCarthy
Research & Genealogy

Amanda Larkin
Museum Manager & Administrative Assistant

Amy Danielson
Exhibits & Program Development



“Old Stagecoach Days” in Wilton Township By Judy Joecks

In Waseca County, Wilton Twp., the Wells Fargo stagecoach route ran diagonally southwest from Wilton Village to the SW corner of Section 30 and continued across the SE corner of Freedom Twp., then went on to the Vivian Post Office in Vivian Twp., Section 16. This post office closed and moved to Waldorf when it was established. This is significant because the stages had the mail contract, thus they picked up and delivered mail. (see the 1879 map in this newsletter.) In the 2022 Waseca Co. Plat Book, this route mostly corresponds with Waseca Co. Road #4, most of the way, but at the Pink Schoolhouse it curves south and goes about 2 miles, then curves to the west before continuing southwest to the former Vivian Post Office location. I have visited the people who have confirmed this route:

Lyle Kunz: Lives on the Mert Schwarz place and says Mert told him all about the stagecoach. The Wells Fargo barn was just east of the house. The stage would stop at the barn as they travelled, change horses and continue on. Lyle says the hotel was across the road (Wilton Bridge Road) from his house on the high area next to the trees,



but it had burned down.

Ann Schwarz: Daughter of Mert and Elaine Schwarz: Ann, her siblings and children had heard all of their father’s stories regarding the stage route on their property. The old station (Wells Fargo Barn) used to be just on the north side of the east-west-ridge, where there is a dip in the ridge. Mert had also pointed out the hollow where the stagecoach stop was. Ann described the wedding of her sister, Katie Schwarz and Lee Ryan who were married on that spot in 1994 by the Le Sueur River SW

of Waseca. Near the old stagecoach stop, east of the house, they created a “chapel” between two walnut trees. Guests were carted there on a horse drawn hay wagon, driven by Lyle Kunz and then seated on quilt covered straw bales facing the pulpit. The father of the bride, Mert Schwarz drove the horse and buggy that carried the bride along the old stage coach road to the ceremony’s site. Rev. Roger Haug officiated wearing a green stole and a cowboy hat.

Mrs. Clarence Rudolph: “The Wells Fargo Barn was on the west bank of the river on the Mert Schwarz farm (Section 1 of Wilton Township)”.

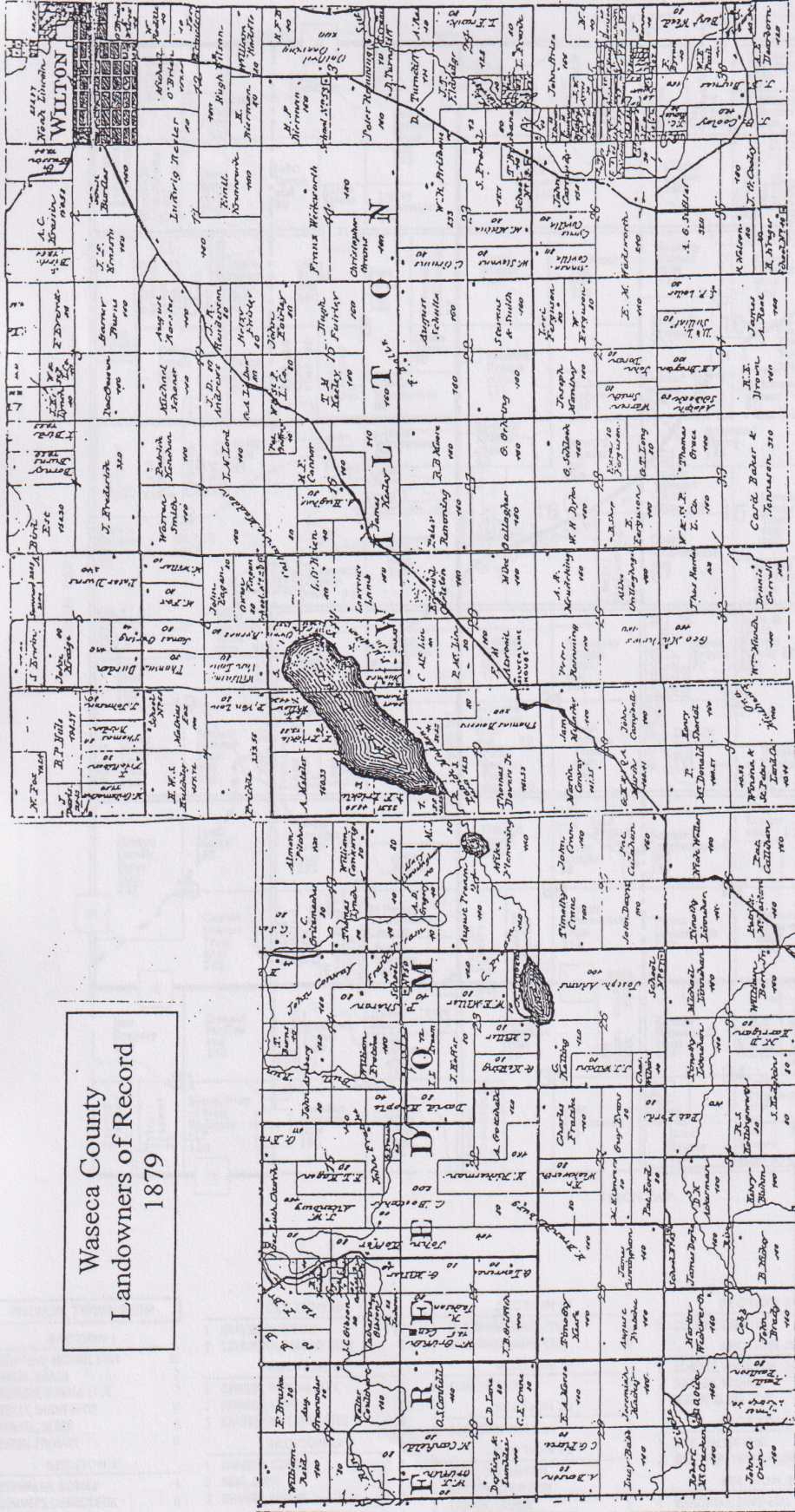
WCHS Director Joan Mooney and Mert Schwarz found the sandbar where the coach crossed the Le Sueur River, and goes into Courthouse Park, where tracks can still be seen.

DeeAnn Britton: “Lois Bauman Yess at the Pink Schoolhouse told me that our house was a stagecoach stop back in the day.”

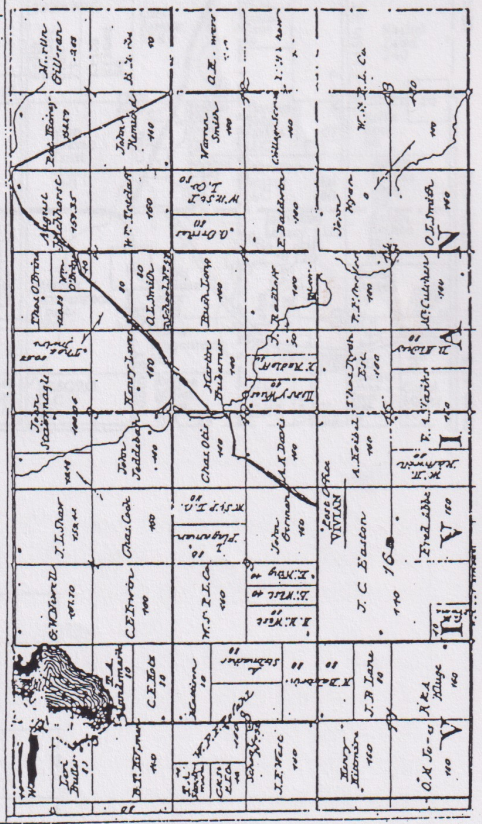
Todd Stencel: “My dad (Gerald) and grandfather both talk about the stage crossing our farm. They said there were places where the stage tracks could still be seen.”

The stagecoach business which began here in about 1859 came to an end when the railroads were built, and by 1880 most Minnesota stage coach routes were obsolete. As always, over time, things continue to change. It’s nice to look back and discover a bit about how things used to be long ago. It had to be very hard to travel those routes; people were indeed strong and hardy to withstand the primitive roads, long days riding on uncomfortable seats, the summer heat, the winter cold and blizzards, break downs, and in some areas robberies. There are many stage-coach stories out there, we just need to find them!

Waseca County
Landowners of Record
1879



The line from Wilton Village going southwest through the southeast corner of Freedom Township then to the old Vivian post office in Vivian Township shows the **STAGECOACH ROUTE**, formerly an Indian trail.
The Vivian postmaster was Henry Bluhm who served until the post office was moved to the new village of Waldorf (formerly Plum Valley). *Judy Joecks*



Addendum to P. T. Barnum Booklet
#51.23

Second Quarter Contributions: June 2nd, 2023 – September 8th, 2023

Renewing Members

Anderson, Julie
Bathke, Dr. Jon
Bathke, Patricia
Boje, Cory
Born, Rodney
Connor, Matt
Flemming, Darrel and Linda
Flitsch, Kathleen
Groskreutz, Dale and Lynn
Groskreutz, Glenn and Jan
Hallman, John
Harter, Lorraine
Hovelsrud, Susan
Hunter, Jan
Ihrke, Mary
Jackson, Carol
Johnson, Bradley
Kugath, LeAnn
McColley, Dallas and Marsha
Meyer, Clark
Moyer, Greg and Brenda
Nielson, Nancy
Olson, Sally
Tesch, Marty
Tloughan, Les and Karen
Turner, Marilyn
Williams, Jack and Mary
Witt, Eugene and Fauniece
Wolff, Dennis and Beth Ann
Wynnemer, Jody
Yamazaki, Stella
Zabinski, Mary Pat
Zwach, Donald and Fran

Sustaining Members

Born, Linda
Nicolin, Jay and Nancy
Rudolph, Janet

New Lifetime Members

Giesen, Marjorie

New Members

Carson, Derek
Cunningham, Megan
Hoisington, Daniel
Larson, Beverly
Pletcher, Lindsey
Tesch, Julie
Van Benschoten, Susan

Appropriations

City of Waseca

Donations

Berger, Doris
Dunn, Dave and Melissa
Giesen, Marjorie
Swenson, Dan
Welch, Eugene

Memorials/Honorariums

In memory of Bob Cowles
by Audrey Hayes

In memory of Bob Cowles
by JoAnn and Delancy Sutlief

In memory of Bob Cowles
by Janette and Bob Larson

In memory of Donald Sutter
by Janette and Bob Larson

In memory of Donald Sutter
by JoAnn and Delancy Sutlief

In memory of Donald Sutter
by Audrey Hayes

In memory of Wayne James
by DeeAnn and Dave Britton

In memory of Joyce Ziemke
by Donna Fostveit

Memorials/Honorariums

In memory of Irene Nicolin
by Donna Fostveit

In memory of Don and Margaret
Wynnemer by Jody Wynnemer

In memory of William (Fred) Foster
by Jody Wynnemer

In memory of Irene Bathke
by Dale and Lynn Groskreutz

In memory of Cindy Proehl
by Dale and Lynn Groskreutz

In memory of Chuck Youngberg
by Tim and Audra Boyer

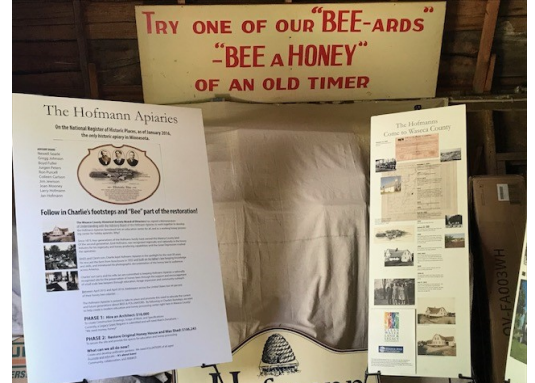
In memory of John Matz
by Tim and Audra Boyer

In memory of John Matz
by Kent Schultz

In memory of Jurgen Peters
by Dave and Melissa Dunn

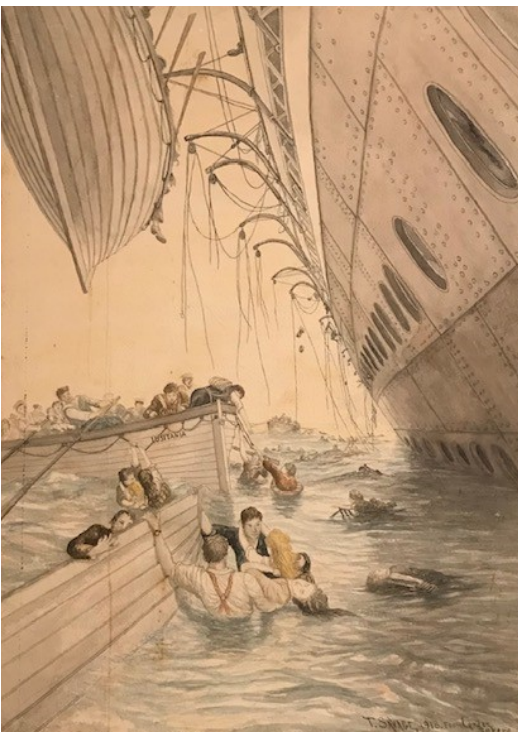
In honor of Ronald Johnson's 80th
Birthday
By Kathryn Tollefson

Summer Events



Thanks to everyone for a great summer! We are especially grateful for everyone who volunteered their time to help us put all of these events together. Here are a few photographs of the Hofmann Open House, the Used Book Sale and the Vintage Implement Auction. Make sure to check our Facebook and website for upcoming events.

Janesville Painter Thomas Savage



1918 oil painting reproduction of the "Sinking of the Lusitania" by Thomas Savage. He acknowledged that it was inspired by a picture published in a 1915 edition of the "London Sphere Magazine." Thomas

Savage was a Janesville artist who came to America from England as a boy of about 11 years where he had acquired his first art training. He often painted scenes near his home; and replicated other artists' work crediting his source. He lived on the east side of Lake Elysian before having his house relocated to the west shore by horses who pulled it across the ice one winter. The house is still standing to this day. His wife Elizabeth was also a painter. In the painting on the right, his son stated, "Pa painted these flowers and Ma painted the foliage."



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Membership Renewal Date

