



Transcending Time

CARVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

39/4: Fall, 2018

Inside—

Page 2

Snippets

Page 3

Around the County

Page 4

Collections Highlight

Page 5

Photography

Page 6

Education Department

Page 7

Membership Update & Donations

“The farther backward you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see”.
~Winston Churchill



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Swedish Ambassador meets with CCHS Representatives



On September 18, Executive Director Wendy Petersen Biorn and CCHS board member JJ Norman had the pleasure of meeting the honorable Karin Olofsdotter, Swedish Ambassador to the U.S., The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss the rehabilitation of the Historic Andrew Peterson Farmstead. More about the visit in Snippets on page 2.

Wendy Petersen Biorn

Have you ever have “one of those days”? The day starts busy and ends busier. At the end of the day, you stand back and try to determine what you did.

Every newsletter affords me the opportunity to look back at the last three or four months and examine what we achieved. There have been some fabulous highlights and some times that have been opportunities waiting for a solution. A highlight was the opportunity to meet the honorable Karin Olofsdotter, Swedish Ambassador to the U.S.

As part of the process for locating funds to rehabilitate the Historic Andrew Peterson Farmstead, our board did some brainstorming. One suggestion that repeatedly surfaced was that we should contact the Swedish Crown. My answer to that was, “Sure, I’ll just pick up the phone and call the King and Queen of Sweden. Anyone have their direct line?” Of course I was being sarcastic, but the task of trying to reach the crown seems, well let’s just say, royally insurmountable.

I have always been a person to “give it a try.” Can’t hurt. The question was really, “Where do I start?” I first tracked down the Swedish Embassy in Washington, D.C. and from there made contact with the Ambassador’s representative. We corresponded via email a number of times, with me trying to explain the importance of the Peterson Farmstead to Swedish history.

Last spring, I received an email stating that the Ambassador would be coming to Minnesota and had requested a visit to the farm. Long story short, her visit was cut by half a day, and we were part of that cut. BUT, we were invited to an invitation only luncheon and the evening public reception. The Swedish Consulate at the American Swedish Institute, Bruce Karstadt, contacted me and said he would make sure we would have time to talk with her, one-on-one. I put the day on the calendar and forgot about it.

About this time, the Gamlegarden Director contacted me and wanted to bring a group of 10, including the Chamber of Commerce, to visit Waconia and the Peterson Farm. They wanted to connect with us for joint marketing. I booked the visit, and forgot about it. The day of the tour came and I spent the day with them. After they left, I went back to my desk to find a message from the ASI and the Ambassador’s office saying how sorry they were that I missed the luncheon. Turns out the event was moved by one day and I missed the change on my calendar. Could I still make the public reception, which was to occur in 3 hours? The Ambassador would still really like to meet me. I hopped in the car, went home, changed into a dress, and sped to the American Swedish Institute. The CCHS board member JJ Norman met me at the ASI.

The results of the meeting are still to be seen, but we did have a good conversation about the farm and she agreed that she would like to see the Swedish Crown have some sort of presence at the farm.

One other very import task this summer was constructing an 80 page business plan for the farm. The CCHS board will be reviewing it over the next several months. We hope to have it approved by December. The document will outline the strategic plan for the Peterson Farmstead over the next 5, 10, and 15 years.

A final highlight was the request to speak next May, at the Swedish Genealogical Society of Colorado. Better yet—all expenses paid. It will be another chance to show off the farm.

Overall, I guess we did get somethings done. I know we planted many seeds. Seeds which, I hope, will reap great rewards.

News from Around the County

Chanhassen Historical Society Chaska Historical Society

Willkommen Heritage and Preservation Society of Norwood Young America

Watertown Area Historical Society Waconia Heritage Association

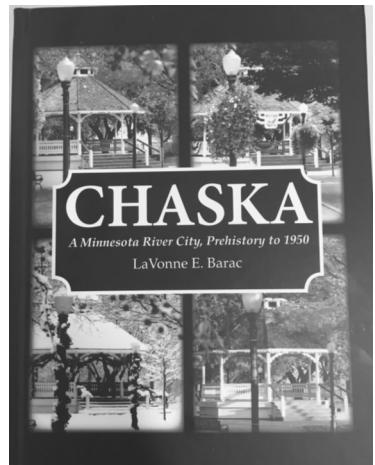


Chaska History Book will be Here Mid October

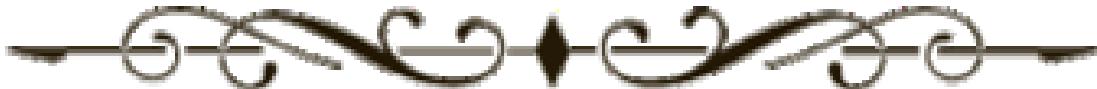
It's ready! The newly edited and reformatted reprint of *Chaska: A Minnesota River City, Prehistory-1950* is expected to arrive mid-October at the Chaska History Center, 112 West Fourth Street in downtown Chaska.

Printed in color as one volume with a new index, this edition is a perfect gift for all interested in the history of Chaska! An area that has evidence of humans dating back to the Mound Builders, Chaska's recorded history begins in 1851. This volume traces the early prehistory and continues for the first 100 years of recorded history.

Call us at 952.448.6077 or email us at historical@chaskahistory.com to reserve your copy today!



The **Annual Meeting of the Chaska Historical Society** will take place at **9:30am on Saturday, November 3rd**. The business meeting of the Society will be followed at 10:15am with a presentation by former Chaska mayor Bob Roepke entitled, "Chaska: The Good, the Needed, and the Role of History in It All". Members of the Chaska society will receive a mailed meeting agenda.



Willkommen Heritage and Preservation Society of Norwood Young America

Willkommen Heritage Center enjoyed another successful Stiftungsfest. Over the week-end many people came through the doors and were amazed at what they found inside.

The Historic Tours were successful again. We had three tours and all were filled, with a waiting list for each one. All the Stiftungsfest memorabilia has now been taken down, waiting for the new exhibit to appear.

For the Holiday Season, we will have the history of trains, mingled with some Christmas decorations. Norwood Young America exists today because of the railroads that ran through each town. The display will feature the history of all three railroads that existed and interesting displays of items used during the height of the railroad. The men that were the railroad agents will be named and hopefully some toy trains will add excitement to the display.

Anyone willing to help or offer railroad memorabilia, please contact the History Center @ 952-467-4227

Collections Highlights

If you read the *Chaska Herald* or the *Chanhassen Villager*, you may have read the article highlighting a recent donation of glass-plate negative relating to Chaska, donated to the CCHS by the Scott County Historical Society. These images have now been digitized and are available via the CCHS photo database. Read the article at:

https://www.swnewsmedia.com/chaska_herald/news/local/glass-from-the-past/article_5885f041-c1b2-5f1f-a652-201645db4fdf.html

While this donation was being processed, staff was also working on completing the digitizing of our large tintype collection. These images are now also available in the photo database, but a few are highlighted here for your enjoyment.



Images above upper row L-R:

- A. Halzer, undated
 - F. Stacken, undated
 - Susie Schmitt and friends, undated
- Lower row
- Emma Bohne, undated
 - Olga Schremff, undated
 - Albert Mueller, undated

“What I like about photographs is that they capture a moment that’s gone forever, impossible to reproduce.”
— Karl Lagerfeld

We all have one; the embarrassing photo that your parents took of you when you were young. You know the one, where they dressed you up in what was fashionable at the time. Today, the sight of the photo makes you cringe. Or maybe it was the family Christmas card, where everyone was dressed in matching outfits. Then, there is the one that you yourself sabotaged by cutting your bangs the day before school pictures. You believed “that” photo was gone forever. Now, at your wedding, it reappears in the slide show, on the big screen...at your reception.

Photos are a relatively new creation, relative meaning 200 years. About 1800, the first reliably documented, but unsuccessful, attempt at a photograph was recorded by Thomas Wedgwood. The earliest surviving photograph, *View from the Window at Le Graas*, was taken by Nicéphore Niépce in 1826 or 1827. But, it wasn’t until Louis Daguerre developed the daguerreotype process that photography gained a foot hold. In 1839, it was commercially introduced. It is this date that has been generally accepted as the year photography was born.

Photos are truly a moment frozen in time. The images provide us the luxury of studying clothing styles, hair styles, and culture. The fashion trend of extremely large hats is illustrated by a photo of little Verona Klanche Bovy of Norwood (above right). Taken in 1906, the hat on this young lady is almost as large as she is. All it would take is a good wind and the hat and Verona would be gone, all in the name of fashion.

An artist often left clues to the status or identity of a person in his or her paintings. This method was carried over into photography, as seen in an early photo of the Waconia Village Council, approximately 1889 (left) It is the small details that bespeak of what each man did and his position in the Village Council. The gentleman wearing a star, on the left, is Joseph Schlecter. He is clearly the Constable or police officer. Seated on the left is H. Glass, holding a book, indicating he was the recorder, or Secretary. The man standing to the far right, Frank Wostrel, is holding a metal box, inferring a strong box, making him the Treasurer. Note also the size of the top hats. The style and type of hat provide clues as to the type of work each man did.

Many photos are telling of what cultural and socioeconomic issues were at the time. Take for example the 1907 photo of Otto Maass,(right) of Waconia. How many five year old boys do you know that would enjoy dressing in knickers and a large ruffled collar? Otto’s dress illustrates that his parents could afford to have him dressed in current fashions.

In an era when a person was expected to be serious in photos, Bertha Burfield’s (1892) expression is more whimsical. The light nature of the photo is rare, indicating that either her parents had the ability to causally take photos or that maybe, they just had a sense of humor.

~Wendy Petersen-Biorn





Learning may lead
to new insights
and fun!!!

Education and Exhibit News

With Heidi Gould

New at the CCHS: *Kitchens: Hearth and Home*



Coming to the Carver County Library CCHS display cases in 2019:

A Great Hat Speaks for Itself . . .

Hats Off To You!

Warm Hands, Warm Hearts
Take a Walk in My Shoes . . .

**Special Thanks to CCHS Donors,
New and Renewing Members
July-September 2018**

New CCHS Members

Theresa Aubin Ahrens
Margaret Albright
Timothy Barrett
Scott & Susan Bornison
Anne M. Brion
MaryAnn Christianson
Linda Coakley
Kay Frye
Good Samaritan Society of Waconia
Kay Hartrick
Jana Burgess-Henry
Linda Hilk
Morrie Kershner
Becky Korinke
Rob Larson
Darlene Magdaluyo
Teri Mahar
Daniel O'Brien
Sandra Oslund
Ellen Sartorius
Mark Simmons
Lynda Stahlke
Peggy Stainer
Timothy Stedman
Carolyn Swiszczyk/Wilson Webb
Holly Umhoefer

Renewing CCHS Members

Zona Brown
Lee Buescher
Judith Carl
Wayne Chapman
Carol Ciavarcelli
Y. Kay Dickman
James Dondono
Joan Felt
Warren Flusemann
Marlys Gaucher
Marlaine Gnan
Dave Granlund
Peter & JoAnne Gustafson
Kathy Hinck
Chuck Hoese
Gary Jensen
Judith Johnson
Luann Kerzman
Susan Krech
Bill Lano

Janice Olesen
Dale & Megan Pederson
Margaret Perry
Mary Beth Pottratz
Al & Phyllis Schmitz
Edward Schneider
Christine Smith
Jack & Mary Speckel
Phyllis Stender
Sandra Tanck
Dennis VanSloun
Barbara Ward
Renee Wyatt

**Donations-
Endowment**
Y. Kay Dickman

**Donations-
Annual Fund**
Charles Sell

**Donations-
In memory of Olvern
Vinkemeier**
John Vinkemeier

**Donations-
General Fund**
Zona Brown

Waconia Heritage Association
Joann Gorman
Rick Gramith
Barbara Halper
Mary Happ
Lois Johnson
Paul Melchert



In Loving Memory



Below

Olvern in front of the William Ekmke farm. Photo taken by OD Sell on July 25, 1943.

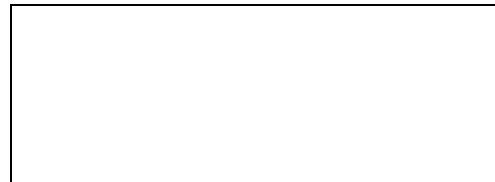


CARVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Museum & Library Hours

Mon.-Fri., 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Board Members

Peter Gustafson (President), Waconia

Mike Fahey (VP), Carver

Lin Deardorff (Treasurer), Waconia

Matt McDougall (Secretary), Waconia

Dan Lund, Chanhassen

Gerry Johnson, Victoria

Mike Coleman, Cologne

Burton Johnson, Chaska

Mark Willem, Cologne

Maureen Farrell, Excelsior

JJ Norman, St. Paul

Randy Maluchnik (Cty Liaison), Chaska

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CARVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEW MEMBER FORM

- Senior Citizen \$15.00
 Individual \$20.00
 Family \$30.00
 Sustaining \$55.00
 Please mail me my newsletter.
 Please accept my donation of _____ toward your annual fund drive.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Gift Membership to: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

The Carver County Historical Society is a nonprofit organization supported by memberships and contributions from county residents, business, and government. All members receive *Transcending Time*, this newsletter.