



# Transcending Time

CARVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

35/3: Fall, 2014

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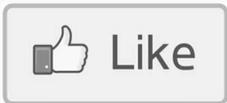
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## New Exhibit Highlights Carver County's Agriculture History

It has been often been stated that “farming is everyone’s bread and butter.” Carver County is home to the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Grimm alfalfa, the Andrew Peterson farm., and Waconia sorghum. Many innovations in agriculture and horticulture originate in Carver County, including terrace farming. From dairy to alfalfa, we wear the nickname: “The Golden Buckle of the Dairy Belt” with pride.

The CCHS is excited to introduce its newest exhibit, dedicated to the Carver County farming industry,

*Minnesota Made .*

Open Monday through Friday 9-4:30 and Saturday 10-3, the exhibit is kid friendly and best of all, it is **free!**



# SNIPPETS

Wendy Petersen Biorn

## One Busy Summer

Where did the summer go? Quilt groups, vacationing over the summer, are starting back up. Football is taking over the airwaves and boats are being taken out of the water for the winter. It seems it was just spring and now, old man winter is knocking on the door. Time moves faster the older we get. Isn't that what our grandparents told us when we were young? What made this summer move especially quickly is that we have been very busy with displays, children's camps, an audit, the fair, and various other activities.

The traveling exhibit, *Storyland*, surpassed our hopes in terms of number of visitors. During the display's run, 1132 people visited. For many years, we have been trying to make the museum more kid friendly. *Storyland* is the beginning of this effort. The exhibit, from the MN Children's Museum, was designed for children ages 0 through 8 and was very hands on. Several days at the end of August, we were flooded with groups from daycares visiting us. One day we were overtaken by approximately 100 children aged 5 and under. They came in groups of 25, but it truly illustrated the need for an exhibit such as this. The biggest problem came in comments asking what we will have next year. Good question, one which I don't currently have an answer for. One thing we can say is that we hit a target audience which has eluded us. Now that we have found what works, we have to find a way to continue the trend. Heidi would like to bring in *Grossology*, but it is a \$50K exhibit. Anyone know any big time sponsors?

It has been our policy to have an audit done every five years. This year we completed one ahead of schedule due to the size of Peterson Farm donation, which placed us in the mandatory audit category. Since one had been done last year, not even an adjustment was required.

Negotiations continue in regard to the Peterson Farm. We have received the right to use the driveway with the exception of tour buses. School buses and our vehicles are permitted. While we have this right, we ask that no one wander down the driveway. Please be respectful of owners of the front part of the farm. The part of the property we own still has estate property on it and is being monitored. We would hate to have someone arrested under the assumption of theft.

Our curator, Eve Weipert, has been busy. The one room school house display at the fair was very well received and sparked great conversations. The agriculture exhibit, *Minnesota Made*, has replaced *Hand-crafted* and several new displays are featured in the display cases in the hall outside the Veterans office. If you haven't visited in a while, stop out soon to view all the wonderful changes.

In September, I presented a session at the American Association of State and Local History conference in St. Paul. For the last year, I have been the co-chair for Marketing and Public Relations for the conference. This has been an honor and pure pleasure for me. We received a Legacy grant allowing Heidi and Eve to attend. I was to be there as well, but as a worker. Another Legacy grant was received to re-do our website.

*Two Wars on the Frontier* was released the end of July. We purchased 250 books and sold 170 copies by the end of August. The book was presented to the Governor's Task Force on the Civil War. At the presentation, we received an ovation, which was overwhelming. The book is available at Amazon.com, here at the CCHS, at the Chaska History Center, Mackenthun's, and Unearthed Arts in Waconia. I have had requests to stock it elsewhere, but haven't had the time to take it to the locations. The book will be available via e-book very soon.

Last but not least, my daughter was married the last day of the fair. I didn't think it was possible but with the help of a great team, both the wedding and the fair were perfect.

A busy summer, but a constructive one with lots of positive changes. Please visit us soon, if just to say hi.

# News from Around the County

Chanhasen Historical Society Chaska Historical Society

Willkommen Heritage and Preservation Society of Norwood Young America

Watertown Area Historical Society

We would like to send out condolences to former CCHS librarian /researcher Marlene Magnuson on the loss of her husband Dale. We have many fond memories of him and his presence will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Magnuson family.

## Willkommen Heritage and Preservation Society

The Bridal display which opened in May and consisted of Five Generations of the Wolter Family, starting in the early 1900's has been taken down and replaced with the Tavern & Gas Station display which was in the Heritage Tent during Stiftungsfest. Some of the items that were on display during Stiftungsfest needed to be returned to their owners, but most of the displays are presented as they were in the Heritage Tent.

We are still looking for information about a gas station that was located in the SW corner of RR St. and Morse St. We know where the building was moved to and have names of some of the employees, but don't know the name of the station. If you know names, please call us at 952-467-4227.

The Willkommen Heritage & Preservation Society has approximately 60 members, and we are always looking for more members and volunteers. We are especially looking for someone to expand our Military information. Displays at the Center are there due to several talented and dedicated history buffs, we have no paid staff.

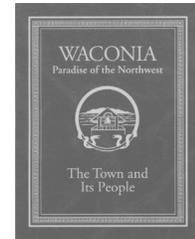
Displays in the Heritage Center range from the NYA Fire Dept., Masonic Hall, scenic photos of the "old Downtowns", Central High School, the Merger, Rich's Barber Shop and more. We are currently in the process of "highlighting" the Graduating Class of 1965. If anyone from the Class of 1965 is interested in helping, please contact the Center at the number listed below.

Hours are Thurs. – Sat. 10:00 to 2:00, with special opening by request. Help is always appreciated; call 952-467-4227 if you're interested in helping at the Heritage Center.

## Archeology Discovery Program November 1st at Chanhasen Library

Last winter, several ancient campsites were discovered in Chanhasen by archeologists who explored the area before work began on the Hwy 101 bridge replacement project. Learn more about this discovery when the Chanhasen Historical Society presents a program on **Saturday, November 1, at 2 p.m.** at the Chanhasen Public Library. Archeologist Kent Bakken, who worked with Florin Cultural Resource Services on the project, will speak at the event. For more information, please contact the Chanhasen Public Library or Chanhasen Historical Society at 952-353-4547 or [www.chanhistorical.org](http://www.chanhistorical.org)

## Now Taking Orders for *Waconia Paradise of the Northwest* Volume II



*Waconia Paradise of the Northwest* Volume II tells the story of *The Town And Its People*. Volume I focused solely on *The Lake And Its Island*. Together, the two books take the reader on a journey from before settlers arrived in the area to the town's sesquicentennial in 2007.

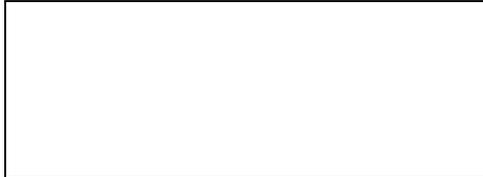
Waconia Heritage Association is pleased to announce Volume II will be available Fall 2014. This 496-page limited edition hardcover book tells us more about our founder Roswell Russell whose vision so strongly directed the early development of the town. We see exactly how the basic needs of the settlers directed the early development of businesses, churches, schools, health care and government. We see how the development of transportation from walking paths to roads and highways – even railways – influenced the focus of the town beyond hospitality to the development of a respected business community, including a well-recognized regional hospital. We see local residents develop the town from a predominantly rural community to a thriving business center. We lovingly see Waconia grow up.

# 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

Michael Owen Hill, (President),  
St. Paul  
Dan Lund (Vice-President)  
Chanhassen  
Peter Gustafson (Secretary),  
Waconia  
Richard Scott (Treasurer), Victoria  
Al Bongard, Cologne  
Michael Fahey, Carver  
John Varone, Chaska  
Darlene Fasching, Minnetrista  
Lynette Bledsaw, Edina  
Burton Johnson, Chaska  
Mike Coleman, Cologne  
Randy Maluchnik (County 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 send a gift membership to the name below.  
I understand a letter will be sent to the recipient  
announcing my gift.
- Please accept my donation of \_\_\_\_\_ toward your  
annual fund drive.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Gift Membership to: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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.