

# The Memo

A Newsletter for members and friends of the  
Roseville Historical Society.



## McCarron

**A Family, a Lake, a Community, a School**

Originally told by John J. McCarron in 1987

The McCarron family emigrated from Ireland to the United States three generations before Great-grandfather Charles McCarron moved to Minnesota from Ohio. In 1850 Charles was the first homesteader near McCarrons Lake. His land included 160 acres in the northwest quarter of section 36, which today is the area bordered by Roselawn, County Road B, Dale and Western. The lake was part of the southern boundary and that is where Charles built his log cabin.

This land was wooded and hilly in contrast to western Rose Township. Instead of raising vegetables, Charles started a family business of dairy farming. In the late 1800s the McCarron homestead, which included a house, barn, and farm buildings, was built on the slope that is now part of Villa Park. These buildings, as well as 45 cows, were destroyed by a fire March 24, 1931. Traces of the foundations are still visible near the park's walking trail.

The next Charles in the family tree served as a Ramsey County Commissioner, in addition to dairy farming. Grandfather Charles was married to Anne and they had six children, with four surviving childhood-Charles, William, Frank and Alice.

Charles and Anne's son, Charles, married Mary Odermatt, who was born in Switzerland. Her family emigrated to Minnesota in 1900 for economic reasons when Mary was 3 years old. The Odermatts bought five or ten acres at the time and also became dairy farmers. They later bought a home and farm at 545 W. Roselawn, which is on the Heritage Trail (#22).

Dairy farming was hard work. At family gatherings they would share stories of the grueling work like cutting and hauling ice from the lake to the farm icehouses, rescuing a team of horses that had broken through the ice, and using horses and ropes to pull cows out of the swamp.

Both the McCarrons and Odermatts had milk routes. At first they delivered the milk by wagon. Milk was dipped from big cans into customers' containers and a price was paid per dip. In the 1920s

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Charles McCarron  
County Commissioner

### Officers

Joyce DuFresne  
President  
651-490-5561

Frank Watson  
Past President  
651-762-2774

Bob Niederkorn  
Vice President  
651-488-3976

JoAnne Garlough  
Secretary  
651-489-5452

Rynetta Renford  
Treasurer  
651-485-6060

LaVerne Dickhudt  
Archivist  
651-484-4146

Co-Heritage Directors  
Sharon Pillen  
651-256-2986  
Beverly Kroschel  
651-484-1708

### Committee Chairs

Betty Danks  
Historian | 651-484-9572

Eleanor Schultz  
Cheer | 651-644-5891

Ron Linebarger  
Membership | 651-765-9789

Sharon Pillen  
Hospitality | 651-256-2986

Betty Danks/Beverly Kroschel  
Newsletter | 651-792-7440

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2785 Fairview Ave. N.

Mailing Address  
2660 Civic Center Drive  
Roseville, MN 55113  
E-mail: rhsmn1977@yahoo.com  
Website: rhsmn.org

Office Hours  
Monday 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Thursday 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.  
Wednesday by appointment

## President's Message

By Joyce DuFresne, President

Dear Friends,

Here we are in late summer. As I write the fair has started. I will do volunteer work at the fair. I hope to see craft items on display. Maybe our members would have ideas for crafty items.



We will have a table in December at the HANC (Harriet Alexander Nature Center) Craft Sale at City Hall. Hope to see you there.

A big thank you to Frank Watson for maintaining our website and posting current information. Check it out at [www.rhsmn.org](http://www.rhsmn.org).

Our meeting in December will have a potluck, and we will have entertainment.

## Dates to Remember



**Membership Meeting** - Monday, September 21, 2015, 7:00 p.m.  
Program: To be Announced

**Membership Meeting & Potluck** - Monday, December 7, 2015 - 5:30 p.m.

*Membership Meetings are held in the Fireside Room at the Oval.*

### Board Meeting:

Thursday, November 12, 2015 - 7:00 p.m.

*Board Meetings are held in the Aspen Room at City Hall. Any member may attend and present a subject for consideration.*

Reminder: If you need a ride to a meeting or any other Society event, call LaVerne Dickhudt at 651-484-4146 and leave a message one week in advance, and you will be picked up.

## The Big Move!

The Historical Society will be moving out of the Fairview office this fall. There will be no heat and the building is scheduled to be torn down, so the office will close in October for sure.

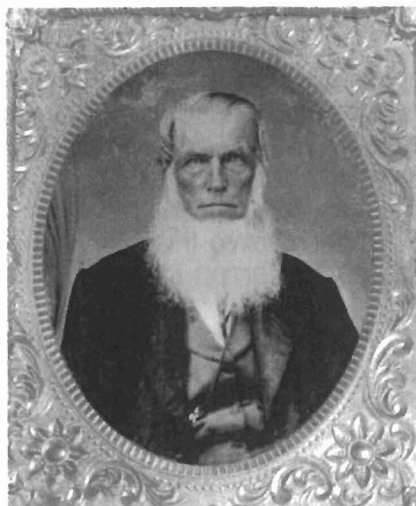
If you are able to help with moving small items (a mover will be hired for heavy cabinets), please call the office (651-792-7440) or volunteer at the September meeting.

A moving day will be scheduled at a time convenient for helpers.

Every man should keep a fair-sized cemetery in which to bury the faults of his friends.

*Henry Ward Beecher*

## Program on Isaac Rose



The Roseville Historical Society and Ramsey County Library are cosponsoring a program Thursday, October 8, 2015, 6:00 p.m. at the Ramsey County Library in Roseville about the Isaac Rose family.

Pat Hill tells the fascinating story of the founding of Roseville. Isaac Rose, one of the area's first white settlers, gave his name to Rose Township, which was established in 1850.

His descendants continued to play a role in area history for generations to come. Founding a 19th century pioneer settlement was never all roses, but this one came pretty close.

## From the Archivist

By LaVerne Dickhudt



My how time flies when you're having fun! Wow it is September already.

Our office keeps busy twice a week doing computer work, filing, cataloging pictures and artifacts. We're also copying on acid-free paper all the newspaper articles from the files. That'll be on going for years.

We also acquired several artifacts and donations:

Baptismal shawl from Katherine Laursen

Two Abstracts on the Bernie Beck property- one of the oldest houses in Roseville and death notices of people that lived there from Michael Boudin.

Tee shirt (Roseville survivor of 1981 tornado) from Al Girard

50th Roseville Anniversary shirt from Herb Dickhudt

Two filing cabinets from Betty Wolfangle

The obituaries keep coming. Thanks to Sam Fudenberg and Eugene Richter.

## Roseville Historical Society

### Membership Form

Send to:  
Roseville Historical Society  
2660 Civic Center Drive  
Roseville, MN 55113

Annual Membership:  
\_\_\_\_ Individual \$ 10  
\_\_\_\_ Family \$ 15

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Dues for calendar year(s) 20\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_

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bottling was required, and by 1925 delivery trucks replaced the wagons.

Charles and Mary McCarron built a home at 425 N. McCarrons Blvd. in 1917. This home is on the Heritage Trail (#21). They also had six children, with four surviving childhood-Charles, Jim, Marie, and John. The children attended School #29, known as McCarrons Lake School, on north McCarrons Blvd. and Rice St. Their parents had attended school in the same frame building. In the 1930s the frame building was replaced by a brick building constructed by the WPA (Works Project Administration). After the school closed the National Guard used the building for many years.

Early on Swiss settlers established the Swiss Society, and Mary Odermatt McCarron joined the organization. The Swiss parties were held in homes where members enjoyed dancing and visiting. Entertainment at that time also included card parties, bunko, and just plain visiting.

Holiday traditions included large family gatherings for Christmas with plenty of food, singing, and merriment; Memorial Day visits to the cemetery along with a family picnic; and for the Odermatt boys (Mary's brothers) lots of fireworks on the 4th of July.

Mary McCarron sewed most of the family's clothes throughout the years. During the depression she was a seamstress for a downtown fur shop for \$7.50 per week.

Charles and Mary's son John was in the Navy during World War II. After returning from the war he married Ethel Merth who was from the east side of St. Paul. They bought the old family home at 425 N. McCarrons Blvd. John and Ethel had three sons-Bob, Bill and Steve. The boys all learned to swim in the lake and ice skate on the lake at an early age.

In 1966 John and Ethel built a new home at 416 N. McCarrons Blvd, directly across the street from the old home. Their new house was right on the lake, where the family enjoyed more activities on the water. The boys raised several batches of mallard ducklings. Some of these ducks returned each year and multiplied.

Ethel also got involved in raising wildlife. Baby squirrels were knocked out of a tree in the yard, and she fed them with an eyedropper.

Only one survived, but after it had grown up and was released, it hung around the yard for several seasons looking for a handout.

John and Ethel's son Bob married Margie Grundtner and they purchased the home on McCarrons Lake in 1992. They raised their daughters Mary and Kathleen at 416 N. McCarrons Blvd., making them the sixth generation of McCarrons to live on land deeded to Charles McCarron in 1850.

The dairy farm is long gone. But memories of the homestead will be with the family for many more years.



J. E. McCarron,  
Company K  
4th Minnesota  
(Brother of Charles)



## Cheer

By Eleanor Schultz

Thinking of you: Bob Neiderkorn  
Betty Wolfangle

Sympathy: Rynetta Renford  
Family of Edna Reasoner

## Treasurer's Report

by Rynetta Renford

July 10, 2015

Checking	\$	245.75
Savings		4,008.72
Building Fund		6,882.00
CD		6,125.05
Totals	\$	17,261.52

## In Memorial



**Edna Greenberg  
Reasoner**

**March 24, 1917 -  
May 8, 2015**

Edna grew up on a farm in Rose Township. Her family raised produce to sell and feed themselves.

As a young girl, Edna worked at Geismann's Restaurant serving their famous fried chicken.

Edna married Ray Reasoner and moved to St. Paul. They had three sons; Daniel, Michael and Timothy.

Edna was a charter member of the Roseville Historical Society. She assisted with programs given at local schools and to community groups about the history of Rosetown/ Roseville.

She spent many hours volunteering at the Central Lutheran School, State Capitol, Alexander Ramsey House, Griggs Mansion, Governor's Mansion, Gibbs Farm and Landmark Center.



**Betty Duddleston**

**February 22, 1922 -  
June 1, 2015**

Betty Duddleston passed away at the age of 93. Betty, known to her family as "B," was born in Madison, Wisconsin on February 22, 1922 and brought up in Reedsburg, Wisconsin. She and her late husband Jim moved to St. Paul, Minnesota early in their marriage and raised their three children in Falcon Heights, Shoreview and St. Paul.

Betty's family will remember her in countless positive ways - as outgoing, intelligent, well-read, accepting and loyal.

Betty is survived by her daughter Susan of Denver, her son David (Janet) of Mendota Heights and Meridee (Harvey) of Philadelphia. She is also survived by six grandchildren.

Betty was a member of the Roseville Historical Society for many years.



### DAR Program

LaVerne Dickhudt and Beverly Kroschel presented a program on Rosetown/Roseville history at the Nathan Hale Chapter of the DAR on Tuesday, July 21, 2015.

Many questions were asked and members learned interesting facts about Roseville.



**Roseville Historical Society  
Membership Meeting  
May 19, 2015 Minutes**

President Joyce DuFresne called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved as printed in the MEMO.

Treasurer Rynetta Renford - Financial totals were in the MEMO.

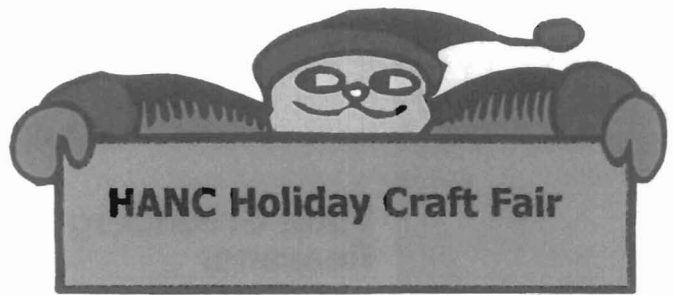
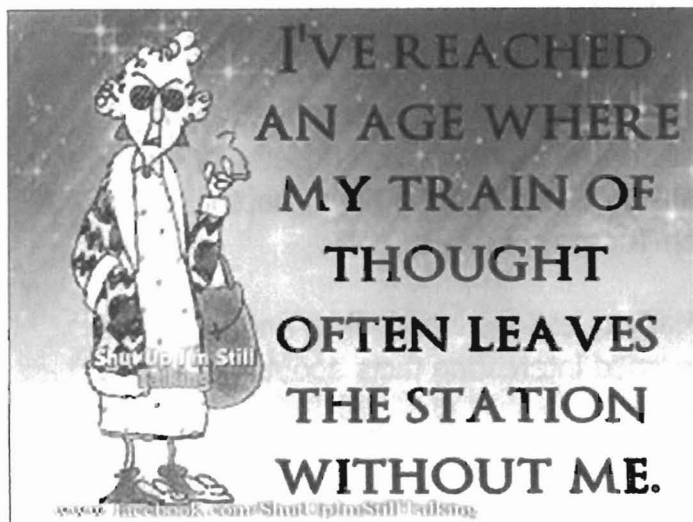
Membership chair Ron Linebarger reported that most members had paid their dues for 2015. There has been a big increase in membership which is exciting.

Archivist LaVerne Dickhudt reported that the office is busy and artifacts continue to be donated. See the list in the MEMO.

Betty Wolfangle gave an update on the Evergreen building site. Costs seems to be overwhelming and the architect is working on bringing then down.

Meeting Adjourned

Program: Bob Jensen gave an interesting program on the Maplewood Historical Society.



The Roseville Historical Society will have a table at the HANC Holiday Craft Fair December 5 and 6, 2015. The Fair is held at City Hall.

Members are busy making items to sell. Please consider donating craft items for sale. All proceeds will go to the new building site expenses.

Volunteers are needed. We especially need help on Saturday morning for setup and sales.

Things we could use are small metal Christmas tins and stocking stuffer items. If you have any ideas to share or items to donate for the sale, we would like to hear from you. Let's make this a big success for future fundraising.

Please contact Beverly Kröschel (651-484-1708) to volunteer or donate items.



**City Hall Display  
By Bob Neiderkorn**

Bob Neiderkorn has a display of Red Wing crocks and pots at the Roseville City Hall.

Stop in and see these items from our past.