



# DAN PATCH *Newsletter*

**A Publication of the Dan Patch Historical Society**

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[www.danpatch.com](http://www.danpatch.com)

## SAVAGE HAS DEEP AND DIVERSE HISTORY

Within the past six years two books have been written about Dan Patch and Mr. Savage. In 2006, Tim Brady wrote “The Great Dan Patch and the Remarkable Mr. Savage” and in 2008 Charles Leer-shen wrote “Crazy Good.” Now in 2012 a pictorial history has been written by Nancy Huddleston and published in the Images of America series.

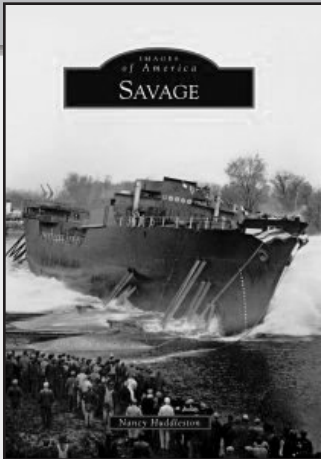
Nancy Huddleston was the editor of the Savage Pacer for 15 years, and during that time she developed a deep appreciation for Savage’s history through the stories she wrote and a weekly photographic feature about the city’s history. She takes pride in offering readers a comprehensive look at Savage’s history with images collected from the Dan Patch Historical Society and many residents and businesses that continue to contribute to the fabric of the community today.

The City of Savage has deep and diverse history. Depicting the time from 1852 until 1965,



Nancy Huddleston with her new book, *Images of America Savage*

the book devotes two chapters to Dan and Mr. Savage, and then covers the Charles Lindberg crash landing, Cargill ship building during World War II, Japanese Language School known as Camp Savage in WWII, the schools, the celebrations and community builders. The Dan Patch Historical Society sells the book as a fundraiser for \$23.50. For more information on how to purchase your signed copy visit our website at [danpatch.com](http://danpatch.com).



*Images of America  
Savage*  
Nancy Huddleston

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**For more information  
about our organization,  
visit our website  
[www.danpatch.com](http://www.danpatch.com)**

**Mission Statement:** The Dan Patch Historical Society was formed for the purpose of collection, preservation and dissemination of historical knowledge and artifacts about the horse, Dan Patch, and its owner, M.W. Savage.

## NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

- Nancy Allen, Savage, MN
- Roger Applegate, Wilmington, OH
- Jens/Joyce Bohn, Savage, MN
- Joe Cade, Lakeville, MN
- Tausha Chamberland, Savage, MN
- David Christopherson, Farmington, MN
- Kathleen Dempsey, Pompano Beach FL
- Rob/Lori Fendler, Savage, MN
- Bob/Thelma Glaspie, Oxford, IN
- Drema Huston, Anderson, IN
- Carrie Johnson, Perham, MN
- Maureen McColl, Port Orchard, WA
- Richard Nash, New Prague, MN
- Alan/Shirley Pervil, St. Louis, MO
- Savage Chamber of Commerce
- Andrew Suel, Savage, MN
- Mike Suel, Savage, MN
- John Vessey, Garrison, MN
- Will/Janet Williams, Savage, MN



# Dan Patch Days 2012

The Dan Patch Historical Society is instrumental in kicking off Dan Patch Days every year with its Horseshoe Hunt. A horseshoe is hidden on public property five weeks before the event with historic clues released each week before the event. Competition is intense as told by hits on our website. The winners this year were Jane Kappes and Jane Broberg. They had to have a button to participate, received \$100, a ride in the parade and the opportunity to keep the commemorative horseshoe.



Jane Kappes and Jane Broberg  
Horseshoe Hunt Winners 2012



Jens Bohn of DPHS with xxxxxxxx and  
Chuck Robison, Intarsia Winners

Collector buttons are sold every year, required for participation in the horseshoe and provide an opportunity to win an intarsia of the button and a blanket commemorating the city.

Winner of the intarsia this year was Chuck Robison of Burnsville, MN and the blanket was won by Savage resident Andi Little.

We had our usual booth at Community Park and this year featured author Nancy Huddleston autographing her book Images of Savage. Sunday was our big parade and featured our entrant of a life size replica of Dan Patch owned by George Augustinack and pulled on a trailer provided by Jerry Smith with Town and Country Trailers.



**DAN PATCH DAYS**  
A Winning Celebration!

[www.danpatchdays.org](http://www.danpatchdays.org)

## Dan Patch Historical Society Membership Application

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

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**ANNUAL DUES:**    Student (\$5)    Individual (\$15)    Family (\$25)    Benefactor (\$50)    Corporate (\$250 & more)

*Please mail completed form and check to: Dan Patch Historical Society • P.O. Box 1:55 • Savage, MN 55378*

# A VISIT TO GOSHEN HISTORIC TRACK AND THE HARNESS RACING MUSEUM AND HALL OF FAME

By Patricia Saffran annotated by Jim Ross  
of the Dan Patch Historical Society

A visit to the Goshen Historic Race Track and the nearby Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame in Goshen, NY proved to be a delightful day. Goshen, located in Orange County, about 60 miles north west of NYC, is a charming if somewhat sleepy town founded in pre-Revolutionary times. Sports enthusiasts here and around the country in the early 1800's used to race informally against each other, driving their horses down country roads or main streets. The growing popularity of these contests led to the need for specific venues, such as tracks at county fairs.

Goshen Historic Track, a National Historic Landmark, is the oldest continuously operated harness race track in the world. The one-half mile track, a dirt oval, has a number of historic buildings, some from the 1800's. The track has hosted some of the greatest horses in harness racing history including Messenger, an 18th Century foundation sire, who grazed in the area that is now the race track.

President Ulysses S. Grant used to watch the races in 1873 at Goshen from a hidden location in the loft of a barn that is still in use today.

Grant would sneak away from his presidential duties to watch his friend Charles Backman's and his own few horses race. He stayed nearby at Backman's large manor house, Stony Ford Farm where Backman bred sons and daughters of the famous harness racing foundation sire Hambletonian 10. Hambletonian 10 had been bred in Orange County, NY, making this county the most important area in the country to the development of harness racing and the development of the Standardbred.

Mike Parker in his article "The History of Horse Racing" writes, "With the popularity of harness racing came the development of the Standardbred, a horse bred specifically for racing under harness. The founding sire of all Standardbreds is an English Thoroughbred named Messenger, who was brought to the United States in 1788.

Messenger was bred to both pure Thoroughbred and mixed breed mares, and his descendants were re-bred until these matings produced a new breed with endurance, temperament, and anatomy uniquely suited to racing under harness. This new breed was called the Standardbred."

Hambletonian 10 was a grandson of Messenger and was higher in the croup than in the withers which gave him great spring and impulsion in his hind legs. His sons and daughters retained this characteristic.

Hambletonian was a popular name for racehorses and was derived from the village of Hambleton in Yorkshire, the site of one of the oldest race meetings in England.

The Hambletonian is also one of the most famous annual harness horse races – part of the Triple Crown for harness racing Trotters, now held at the Meadowlands with a purse of \$1.5 million. This famous race has been held in other locations in the past including the Goshen Mile Track, built by William Cane. This track is less than a mile from Goshen Historic Track and is still visible from the air. Both tracks conducted Grand Circuit meetings simultaneously in the 1930's, 40's and 50's.

The other two legs of the current Triple Crown for Harness Racing Trotters are the Yonkers Trot and the Kentucky Futurity.

Harness racing horses besides trotting are also known to pace, which is a slightly faster gait. Both are natural gaits, some horses have a predilection to one or the other.

*Visit to Goshen, continues on Page 4 ►*



# A VISIT TO GOSHEN HISTORIC TRACK AND THE HARNESS RACING MUSEUM AND HALL OF FAME

*Visit to Goshen, continued from Page 3* ◀

Pacers move two legs forward on the same side rather than staggered legs going forward in the trot. The pacers, who make up most of the harness races in North America, have their own Triple Crown made up of the Cane Pace held at Freehold Raceway, NJ, the Little Brown Jug held at the Delaware County Fair, OH, and the Messenger Stakes in Yonkers Raceway. Unlike the lack of recent Thoroughbred Triple Crown winners, a well-known pacer won the pacing Triple Crown somewhat more recently – No Pan Intended in 2003. There is also a prestigious Breeders Crown for harness horses held at different tracks.

One of the most famous pacers ever, Dan Patch, is featured in a permanent exhibition at the Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame which is located right on the outskirts of Goshen Historic Track. Dan Patch raced at the turn of the century.

Born in 1896 in Oxford, IN he appeared in his first race four years later and started winning. After being purchased by Marion W. Savage Dan traveled around the country in his own luxury railcar to appear at many race tracks and county fair races where thousands of adoring fans turned out to see him.

Even though a stallion, Dan was gentle and loved people. He was known to acknowledge the applause of his fans by turning his head toward the stands, which he did on the occasion of his world record breaking time of 1:55 1/4 in 1905,

and at his unofficial 1:55, which might be official now with a recent rule change, for pacing a mile with a two-wheel sulky in 1906. Adios Butler broke Dan's record in 1960 with 1:54. At one point Dan Patch was so popular that his image appeared on all kinds of products and he made money on tour even in retirement. Dan died in 1916 at the age of 20. Fortunately, there are videos available on line of this champion.

Other notable Hall of Fame horses include a pacing Triple Crown winner, a Horse of the Year, and the richest winning female horse ever with over \$5.5 million in winnings when she was retired in 2000 (Moni Maker).

The original structure is a grand Tudor-style horse stable built in 1913 by J. Howard Ford.

Besides the exhibitions in the Museum, there is a fantastic 3-D harness racing simulator "ride" that vibrates and makes people feel like they are right in a race even though they are just sitting in a small auditorium.

While the Museum is open year round, the nearby racetrack is only open to the public during a week of live racing in June and July this year. The rest of the year owners, trainers, and drivers use the track for training. The grandstand was erected with funds from Mrs. E.H. Harriman in 1911 and there is also a small wooden Victorian judges stand and bandstand in the infield. The atmosphere on live race days is a reminder of the county fairs at the turn of the century, with one exception - there is no betting here on race days.



Over the years, the Museum has had several expansions to accommodate growing collections and provide additional gallery space.

***For more information  
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• A framed picture of Dan Patch from Harold (Butch) Hanen, Burnsville, MN

• A poem titled "A Tribute to Dan Patch" by Maureen Smith, Lynnwood, WA

# DONATIONS

**ONE COUPON**



WE want to acquaint you with the superior quality of our Northhome Steel-Cut Blended Coffee and as an inducement will send you five pounds postage paid for only \$1.00 and we guarantee it the equal of any coffee selling for much more money. Use one-half pound and if you are not thoroughly satisfied return the balance to us and we will cheerfully refund you \$1.00 and the postage for its return. Could we make you a fairer offer?

Our Northhome is a blend of fancy Brazilian and Colombian Coffees that is sure to please the taste of most exacting coffee drinkers. The coffee is Steel-Cut and then put through a blower which removes all the chaff. The coffee is put up in five-pound packages which are air-tight, insuring perfect condition when it reaches you.

This grade of coffee cannot be duplicated elsewhere at this price. Sold in five-pound packages only.  
**G567 S. S. 5 pounds, postpaid.....\$1.00**

**M. W. SAVAGE CO., Minneapolis, Minn.**

**SAVE THIS COUPON**  
(OVER)

Four M.W. Savage coupons from Mindy Doerfler Rehbein donated in honor of her parents: Ronald and Judith Doerfler, Webster, MN. Mindy lives in Sidney, MT and bought an old book at a yard sale. Inside the book were four coupons over 80 years from the M.W. Savage Co., Mpls, MN in mint condition. Mindy grew up in Savage, MN, knew all about the history of our city, has fond memories of growing up here and donated them to our museum.

## Items for Sale

- 2008 Dan Patch Pewter 2-1/2" diameter Holiday Ornament.....\$20
- Dan Patch Postcard.....\$1



- 2012 Dan Patch Days Button.....\$3  
Previous years buttons also available
- M.W. Savage Storyboard.....\$75
- Dan Patch Storyboard.....\$75  
Storyboards are perfect for homes, offices and waiting rooms



- International Stock Food Farm Book.....\$25 (non-members).....\$15 (members)
- The Great Dan Patch and the Remarkable Mr. Savage Book....\$24.95  
DVD also available for \$10
- Dan Patch Electric Railroad Book...\$15 (non-members).....\$12 (members)

\*Items available at The Razor's Edge Barbershop, through the website [www.danpatch.com](http://www.danpatch.com) or call 952-890-1669. Shipping and handling fees apply.

**DAN PATCH  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 1:55  
Savage, MN 55378**

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President** Jens Bohn  
12385 Ottawa Ave. S., Savage, MN 55378  
952-890-5260

**Vice President** George Augustinack

**Treasurer** Nancy Allen

**Secretary** Janet Williams

**Webmaster** Greg Lind

**Newsletter Editor** Tausha Chamberland

Tom Brennan

Joe Cade

Rob Fendler

Jim Ross

Jed Williams

Will Williams

**[www.danpatch.com](http://www.danpatch.com)**

**VISIT: Heritage Room/Museum**

**Savage Public Library**

**13090 Alabama Avenue, Savage, MN 55378**

### **Hours of Operation:**

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 10am-8pm

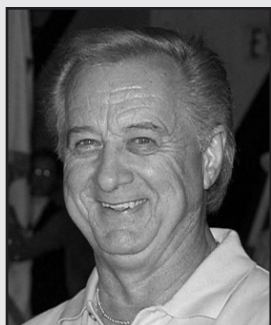
Wednesday 1pm-8pm

Friday 10am-4pm

Saturday 10am-5pm

Sunday 1pm-5pm

## ***FROM THE PRESIDENT...***



**Jens Bohn**

On July 25th we had our Annual Meeting at the library. Our officers and Board remains the same. We had been working with the MN History Center asking them to loan us a statue that they have of Dan Patch commissioned by Mr. Savage to display in our museum. The request was denied. Perhaps someday we will be unsuccessful.

We are disappointed that the Savage Depot closed this summer. It was a great place to meet and greet people, share our history and have a beverage and something to eat. We are hopeful that another business will open there soon.

As you recall the DPHS was instrumental in moving the depot back to Savage and refurbishing it. The city now owns it and the society is instrumental in preserving its historic significance.

On a positive note, the Masons have purchased a building in our city for their offices and meeting space. There is a Savage connection here as Mr. Savage was a Mason and the Masonic Home is where his summer home was directly across the river in Bloomington, MN.

Soon Winterfest will be here, actually Dec. 6. That is when members of our group take a step back in time, dress in clothing of Mr. Savage's era, participate in our tree lighting ceremony and walk in the parade. Anyone interested is welcome to join us.

*Jens*