



# DAN PATCH *Newsletter*

A Publication of the Dan Patch Historical Society

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



2013 Dan Patch Days Button

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

## It's time for **DAN PATCH DAYS, JUNE 20-23, 2013**

Sixty years ago the first Dan Patch Days button was sold and you needed one to enter the street dance. The small tan button had the date and a picture of Dan's head. Now our button is larger, more colorful, depicts some part of Dan's life, only costs \$3, is required



1953 Dan Patch Days Button

to participate in the horse shoe hunt and is a collector's item. Purchase of a button gives you a chance to win an intarsia of the button or a Dan Patch blanket. Each year, Jim Ryan, local artist crafts the replica of the button as first prize for the drawing. The drawing is held on Saturday on the big stage at Community Park at 6:30 PM.

This special button depicts Dan Patch surrounded by a clock. Dan raced against the clock as no horse would race against him.

### **HORSESHOE HUNT**

At the end of May our very own cluemaster releases on our website clues to help find the special horse shoe hidden somewhere on public property within the City of Savage. The winner receives \$100 and the opportunity to ride in the grand parade on Sunday.

### **BOOTH AT COMMUNITY PARK**

On Saturday from 2-8 PM our society has a booth at Community Park. Stop by to meet us, view our display and look at the items that we have for sale. Be sure to buy a button!

### **PARADE**

Don't miss the grand parade in downtown Savage on Sunday at 1 PM. We will be in the parade with a professionally done float carrying a life size replica of Dan Patch.



**DAN PATCH DAYS**  
*A Winning Celebration!*

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

**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 it's owner, M.W. Savage.

## NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

**Dawn Bergman,  
West Linn, OR**

**Jack/Cindy Bergman,  
Francisville, LA**

**Tom Brennan,  
Savage, MN**

**Bonnie Conrad,  
Glendale, AZ**

**Vivian Egan,  
Winter Park, FL**

**Lyle Elverud,  
Minneapolis, MN**

**Joe Hermanson,  
Amityville, NY**

**Wayne Mattox,  
Wanatah, IN**

**Jed/Jenny Williams,  
Savage, MN**

# WINTERFEST 2012



Pictured from left to right: Jed Williams (a.k.a. Mr. M.W. Savage), Jenny Williams (a.k.a. Mrs. Merietta Savage), Nancy Allen, Joyce Bohn, Janet Williams, Will Williams, Greg Lind, Sharon Lind and Jens bohn)

Our group again gathered at the Savage Chamber of Commerce Winterfest in Downtown Savage, MN on December 6, 2012 in costumes from the Mr. Savage era. We participated in the tree lighting ceremony and marched in the night parade.

## 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*

# CAMP SAVAGE



Display of Camp Savage at Fort Snelling

Our mission statement mostly talks about M.W. Savage and Dan Patch, however, our museum at the Savage Library contains information on all of the history of Savage, MN. Occasionally we are asked to give talks on the broader history of the city. The Twin Cities World War II Roundtable asked for information about Camp Savage, a Japanese Military Intelligence Language School located here in 1942. Four Japanese American veterans from the camp served on a panel and one of our members did a powerpoint of the camp. George Augustinack, a collector from

Savage and member of the DPHS with his daughter Tausha Chamberland also a member of the DPHS, put together an outstanding display. A DVD of the entire presentation is at our museum.

## WILL THE DAN PATCH LINE CARRY PASSENGERS AGAIN?

In 1908 Mr. Savage was running a passenger rail line from Minneapolis to Savage where he housed his famous harness racing horse Dan Patch. He called it the “Dan Patch Line” and extended it to Lakeville where he built an amusement park called Antler’s Park on Lake Marion. Revenue from the park was used to extend the line south to Northfield. After Mr. Savage died, the rail line was taken over by the MN&S Railway. It began carrying freight, which was more profitable, and carried passengers until 1942. Parts of the line still carry freight. In 1997 at the request of the MN State legislature, a study was initiated on the feasibility of commuter rail in MN. In 1999 the Dan Patch Corridor was

named one of the corridors with the highest potential. The Dan Patch Corridor is a proposed commuter rail line that would serve a region which runs from Minneapolis to Northfield, MN. The plan was under consideration until 2002 when the bill banning further study was enacted after complaints by some who live along the line. The corridor sat in relative obscurity until further discussion of transit in general has prompted the legislature to consider lifting the ban.



Dan Patch Electric Line, circa 1907

Perhaps someday passengers will again ride the Dan Patch Line from Northfield to Minneapolis through Savage past what was the farm.



# POEM: A TRIBUTE TO THE GREAT DAN PATCH

by Maureen Smith

This poem was printed in the July 2004 issue of the New Hoosier Horse Review, p. 14.  
Maureen Smith of Lynnwood, WA., is a member of the DPHS

Where should I begin...?

Oh yes. I would like to talk about the greatest horse that graced our world...Dan Patch.

He was born in the town of Oxford, Indiana.  
A mighty stallion, with the gift of speed-  
An awesome athlete.  
A trait I believe given to him from God.

He was like a mighty sword,  
Swiftly cutting down his opponents on the track.  
And he had a pace that was so refined,  
That watching him took one's breath away.

Yes, let me say that he had another side to him,  
He loved to dance when the band played,  
It was called the Dan Patch Two-Step.  
I think he did it to please his fans.

He had a heart of gold...  
With a soul of compassion.  
A love for the sport,  
And those around him.

When he was born, his legs weren't that good,  
But that didn't stop him.  
And when there were unbelievers,  
He sure did prove them wrong, didn't he?

He had a gentle disposition.  
A heart of gold.  
A regal presence.  
A love for the sport.

When he raced, he was an unstoppable force...  
But when he paced,  
He had the fire of Joe Patchen, his sire of  
incredible fame...  
And from Zelica the mare, he inherited her gentle  
disposition and flair.

He was the color of dark mahogany bay.  
A star upon his forehead,  
And a gaze...that looked right through you,  
Right into your very soul, it was said.

And as time passed,

A man by the name of Mr. Messner sold him to  
Mr. Savage,  
But even so, with all of Dan Patch's fame,  
This horse with a heart as big as he was, always  
remained the same.

This horse touched my heart deeply,  
Giving me moments of pure delight.  
If I had one wish, it would be to touch that big,  
beautiful head,  
And walk away with a feeling of pure joy and  
happiness for the remainder of my life.

But fates were unkind, and dealt us a heavy  
blow,  
A great light was extinguished, taken from us  
all..forever.  
A great loss for all of those who loved him.  
Why this happened, I cannot begin to understand  
or know.

There is a great mystery you know, as to where he  
was laid to rest.  
There is a part of me that wishes to know,  
But then again, if it is not known where, he is safe  
from the unscrupulous.

And if there is one message that Dan would like to  
be remembered for, it is this...  
When life deals you obstacles left and right,  
Remember this horse who overcame all obstacles  
and proved to everyone...  
You can shine bright!



# DONATIONS

- Post Card "Greetings from Savage, MInn." Post-marked 1907 from Elaine Bakke, Savage, MN
- Framed picture of our postcard (17 x 23) that hung for 32 years in Dan Patch American Legion, post 643. Donated by Ed Reiners.
- The Nisei Soldier (third expanded edition) by Edwin (Bud) Nagasone donated to the DPHS for the Heritage Room at the Savage Public Library.
- Panoramic photo (14 x 5 ½) of the International stock Food Farm with the M.W. Savage home on the hill in background donated by Earl "Buzz" Husom of Savage, MN

**Dan Patch  
Historical  
Society**

**Annual  
Meeting**

**Wednesday,  
July 24, 2013  
at 7pm**

**Savage Depot**

## Items for Sale

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



- Dan Patch Postcard.....\$1
- 2013 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
- Images of America, Savage Book.....\$23.50
- 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

We just ordered our third box of books *Images of America, Savage*. At our last board meeting we agreed to donate a copy to each of the schools in our city as part of our mission of education. We sold three storyboards recently and continue to sell *The Great Dan Patch and the Remarkable Mr. Savage* which also includes a DVD. We answer a few inquiries every week from our website.

The success of our organization rests on a committed board who each take on a specific task important to the organization. I thank each and every one of them and also thank our volunteer who keeps our museum up to date and orderly.

See you at Dan Patch Days and be sure to buy a button. Buttons are available at my shop, the library or city hall.

*Jens*

***For more information  
about our organization, visit our website  
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