



DAN PATCH

Historical Society

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 59 / FALL 2023

MISSION

The Dan Patch Historical Society collects, preserves, and disseminates historical knowledge and artifacts about the horse, Dan Patch, and its owner, M.W. Savage, and also all history about the city of Savage.

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DAN PATCH



HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Savage Fire Department Auxiliary

By Jim Ross

On September 9, 1974, the wives of firemen in the Savage Fire Department identified a need in the community. What started with two women quickly grew to several with last names like McQuiston, Egan, and Bohn. The Savage Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary would peak with over 30 members paying yearly dues of \$1. The needs they filled were manifold and most centered around food. Delicious, comforting food!

"We originally started to support the firemen working hard to fight the fires," recalled one member.

When the firemen (all men at the time), were fighting big fires (think the Port Bunge grain elevator explosion or the Pollution Control fire) the wives made big lunches.

Realizing the kitchen was in bad shape and needed updating, the hot dish luncheon was started in 1976 to fund the need. The luncheons, which cost \$5 a head, were met with huge turnouts. With staples such as goulash, ham scallop, and green bean casserole, sometimes the roasters ran low.

Soon the kitchen had a new stove, more roasters, and serving dishes. The ladies expanded their culinary skills to Civic dinners, dinners for seniors, and Christmas parties. Then, a cookbook was published to raise funds. All the money raised went to support the Fire Department in many ways, such as with new rescue equipment and formal portraits.

The Auxiliary also provided emotional support to the wives, many with children, who worried about the safety of their spouses. They could gather for a cause when their husbands were gone for long hours. In those days the only form of communication with spouses was through a landline, not available on scene.

The Auxiliary would meet five times per year, usually in the fall and winter.

The word "ladies" was removed from the name in 1996 as roles changed and women started to serve as firefighters. If old meeting minutes are any indication, the Auxiliary stopped meeting in the early 2000s. Needed equipment was obtained budgetarily from the city. The firefighters started the Cadillac dinner and the bowling tournament to

fund extra equipment and cover the Halloween open house and Christmas party expenses.

I can still smell the deliciousness of the goulash and the coffee brewing.

I'll sign off now, as I need to start chopping onions and browning 12 pounds of hamburger!



Members of the Savage Fire Department Auxiliary, taken in the late 1990s. (Photo courtesy of the Savage Pacer)

Dan Patch Days

June 2023

The threat of severe weather put a damper on Dan Patch Days 2023, as all of the Saturday events were cancelled. Although we didn't get to meet and greet everyone at our booth and in the parade, the DPHS horseshoe hunt provided great momentum leading up to the weekend.

Website traffic steadily ticked up in the weeks and days leading up to Dan Patch Days as horseshoe hunt seekers inundated the site for new weekly clues. Daily traffic during the horseshoe hunt averaged 104 hits per day, which is higher than our normal daily traffic of between 30-50 hits. So far this year we have had 9,386 page views and 3,567 unique visits.

DPHS Horseshoe Hunt Winner

Matt Littlefield and Family

The horseshoe hunt went down to the wire before Matt Littlefield and family found it in Cates Lake Park (see clue decipher article below). This year the horseshoe was found by a group of individuals who are "professional" seekers in other Twin Cities area hunts.



Matt Littlefield and Family

DPHS Prize Winners

3 Dan Patch Collector Plates Winners
Dan & Laurie Stock, Maple Grove, MN

Savage Blanket Winner
Kelly Potter, Clearwater, MN

1970 Dan Patch Whiskey Decanter Winner
Dan Giles, Savage, MN (not pictured)



Dan & Laurie Stock



Kelly Potter



Anika Lind

Dan Patch Photo Stand-in

The DPHS Photo Stand-in is always a hit at Dan Patch Days, but it needed refurbishing. Member/Webmaster Greg Lind enlisted the help of his daughter, Anika, to make it shine! Although we didn't get to use it at our booth due to the weather cancellation, the stand-in is safely stored for future events. Thank you, Anika Lind!

2023 Horseshoe Hunt Clues

The Dan Patch Historical Society's annual horseshoe hunt has taken place every year since 1996 and precedes the annual Dan Patch Days celebration.

Over the years, the hunt has grown in popularity, with people looking for the hidden horseshoe somewhere within the city of Savage, on public property. Here are the 2023 clues, along with the explanation, courtesy of our "clue master."

CLUE 1

'Tis time once again for
the hunt to begin
As Dan a shoe he did lose,
It'll take all ur brain, to
discern where it's lain.
With clues and button,
it's news.

Explanation:
Introductory Clue

CLUE 2

By his mark of an X in '60,
Lincoln granted a plot quite nifty.
For cultivation, fencing & stabled,
Dan felt at home here and quite
enabled.

Explanation:
In a document from the Military
Bounty Land Act of March 3, 1855,
John McCann was granted 160
acres in 1860. He signed with his
mark of an X. The document was
approved and signed by President
Abraham Lincoln. The land was
farmed. This clue draws one to
the southwest portion of the city.

CLUE 3

By '30 the land thrice sold,
From TL to TK to EC.
The trek is one to behold,
Baptized in lore you would be!

Explanation:
This park land changed hands
from Thomas Loftus to Thos.
Knafsey to Earl Cates. Trek
is a synonym for journey,
Journey Lane is near the park.
Baptized refers to the water of
Cates Lake.

CLUE 4

Old man Kneasfey had a farm...
And on this farm there was a bench...
And on this bench was thus etched...
B & E, Oh my!

Explanation:
Knafsey, also spelled Kneasfey is
referred to as "old man Kneasfey" in
the Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed
district website info on Cates Lake.
Cates Lake was once known as
Kneasfy's Lake. While some addresses
are listed as Prior Lake, the park is in
Savage. The park has a bench on the
west side that overlooks the lake and
has the initials B & E etched on it.

Museum Partnership Continues to Grow

By Nancy Huddleston

The Dan Patch Historical Society's partnership with the city of Savage is growing along with the expansion of the Savage Library. As a part of the \$1.146 million project, the Museum/Heritage Room will be moving into the area that previously housed the periodicals. As a result, the space available to the DPHS will double in size and there will be greater visibility in the building. Both existing display cases containing M.W. Savage catalogs, buttons from all of the Dan Patch Days, M.W. Savage stationary, horseshoes, Dan Patch collector whiskey decanter, tobacco tin, items from Cargill, Camp Savage, and other collectibles will be moved. More display cases will be added and will include additional storage space underneath. The current file storage system will be moved, and so will all the banners, maps, posters, and other historic items. Plus, the new area will include a reading nook and an area for a table and chairs.

The display room near the front of the current entrance with a sulky, Dan Patch wagon, and items from the International Stock Food Farm will remain in place. The storage room area where overflow items are kept will also be retained. And the Dan Patch/M.W. Savage statue outside the building will be relocated to a new spot on the library's grounds.

The DPHS formed a unique partnership with the city in 1997 when the mayor and city council voiced the need to have museum space included to promote the rich history of Savage. Although the library is operated by the Scott County Library System, it is owned by the city, which provides space for the Senior Center and Savage Arts Council, and is used by several other community groups, and the public.



Ground was broken just after Labor Day for the library's expansion, but planning started in 2021 when the city used some of its American Resource Plan Act (ARPA) funds to evaluate space needs in the library. The analysis showed the need to double meeting room space, swap the magazine area and the museum, provide better access/visibility for the senior center and art space, create permanent Family Resource space, and provide security for an open library (6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., seven days a week, with a special card).

Construction is expected to last six months. The city of Savage will be allocating \$966,795 in ARPA funds for the project and Scott County will be chipping in \$180,000. There will be no cost to the DPHS for the Heritage Room move and expansion.

Lynn Avenue RR Bridge Removed

A rather large piece of history was partially dismantled in September, when the spans of the Lynn Avenue railroad bridge were removed after being damaged by a truck.

The bridge carried a RR line founded by M.W. Savage, who announced plans in 1907 for a new railroad to serve southern Minnesota—the Minneapolis, St. Paul, Rochester and Dubuque Electric Traction Company. It was popularly called The Dan Patch Line and opened in 1910. The Minneapolis, Northfield and Southern Railway Company (MN&S), a Minneapolis-based short line railroad, bought the line in 1918, two years after Mr. Savage died.

The date 1926 was stamped in one of the concrete piers, so it's likely that the MN&S built the bridge to accommodate the growth of freight lines in the 1920s. The small local freight hauler served independently until 1982, when it was purchased by the Soo Line. In 1984, Canadian Pacific Railway gained complete control of the Soo Line and owns the route between West Minneapolis and Lakeville, although Savage to Lakeville does not operate.



Photo courtesy of the city of Savage

From The President Don't Forget To Order from Savage

By Jim Ross

One of my favorite places to visit is the North Shore of Lake Superior. Last winter, my wife and I trekked north again and enjoyed the beauty along the Superior Hiking Trail.

While in Grand Marais we visited the Cook County Historical Society Museum where I picked up some past editions of their newsletter. The December 2022 cover story was dedicated to the planning and celebration of Christmas traditions "in the old days." I was pleasantly surprised to read that mothers would anxiously await the catalogs from Sears, Wards, and Savage! Prices were compared, lists made, and supplies ordered for sewing, knitting, and embroidering presents. Mail was closely watched, and packages hidden upon arrival.

M.W. Savage's marketing and success was prominent not only across Minnesota but across the country and even internationally. Our membership also reflects widespread interest as many states and countries are represented. We value your interest and appreciate renewals!

May your traditions and celebrations be happy and healthy this holiday season!



Meet the Board

Jon Allen was born and raised in Savage where he and his brothers spent time hiking and tubing under Highway 13 to the Minnesota River. After he was married, Jon and his family lived in the fourth generation Allen home in downtown for a few decades, and since then have lived in Prior Lake. In 2021, after working for 37 years for the city, Jon retired as the parks and natural resources superintendent.

Vern Bloomquist is the retired former owner of Bloomquist Hardware & Power Equipment in Burnsville, worked with his family at Bloomquist Hardware in Savage, and is currently the treasurer for the Dan Patch Historical Society. He lives in Farmington with his wife Cathy, and they have two married daughters and six grandchildren.

Joyce Bohn moved to Savage over 30 years ago after meeting her late husband, Jens, a lifetime resident and former president of the DPHS. She became involved in many aspects of the city, including serving as the president of the Chamber of Commerce, and assisting with the downtown redevelopment council. Joyce worked with Jens to create the Savage blanket and preserve other Dan Patch/M.W. Savage collectibles. They also owned Razors Edge Barbers/Beauty Salon and The Brass Peacock retail shop.

Joe Cade, one of the original founders of the society, has rejoined the Board and is serving as vice president. Joe and his wife, Linda, have a home on Prior Lake where they love to entertain their children and grandchildren. He is semi-retired now but has been practicing law in Savage for 40 years. He is a past president of the Savage Chamber of Commerce and served as a member of the board of directors of the Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance and Ovarian Cancer National Alliance.

Tausha Chamberland is a lifelong resident of Savage and she and her husband Chris have two college-aged daughters, Amber and April. She is the daughter of George Augustinack, who was a founding member of the DPHS, and the co-creator of the Dan Patch Days button. The button was designed in collaboration with her dad, George, and now with her daughter, Amber. Tausha is also the former newsletter editor for the DPHS and is youngest board member. She works for Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District.

Nancy Huddleston is a retired wordsmith and worked as the editor of the *Savage Pacer* for 14 years, where she developed a love for the city's history. She is also the author of *Images of America-Savage* and is currently the newsletter editor for the DPHS. She lives in Burnsville with her husband Mike, and they have two married sons and six grandchildren.

Greg Lind has built a 38-year career as a senior structural designer, but when he's not working you can find him playing hockey regularly in both Minnesota and Tennessee as he goes back and forth for work. He is the DPHS' webmaster, has served on several nonprofit boards, managed a few websites, and was a planning commissioner in Savage from 2001-2009. He has two adult children and has lived in Savage for 25 years.

Jim Ross is a lifelong Savage resident and a retired member of the Fire Department. He has been a member of the DPHS since 2006, served a stint as the vice president, and is currently the president. He has frequently written for many local publications on Mr. Savage, Dan Patch, and our local history.



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ANNUAL DUES: Student (\$10) Individual (\$20) Family (\$30) Benefactor (\$55) Corporate (\$250+)

Please mail completed form and check to: Dan Patch Historical Society; P.O. Box 1:55, Savage MN 55378
Annual renewal date is listed in on the address label of your newsletter. Thank you for your support.

DAN PATCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEW & RETURNING MEMBERSHIP

Jon Allen, Savage, MN
Joe Cade, Prior Lake, MN
Tausha Chamberland, Savage, MN
David Christopherson, Farmington, MN
Kathleen Dempsey, Winter Park, FL
Kevin & Anna Frechette, Savage, MN

Drema Huston, Anderson, IN
Jim & Lori Ross, Savage, MN
Robert Savage, Excelsior, MN
Dan & Lori Stock, Maple Grove, MN
Jed & Jennifer Williams, Savage, MN
Will & Janet Williams, Savage, MN

**WE ALWAYS WELCOME NEW MEMBERS, TELL A FRIEND ABOUT
THE DAN PATCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY!**

Recent Donations

DPHS framed pair of storyboards from Rob Fendler, Savage, MN

Dan Patch liquor bottle from Sally Huff Corpus Christi, TX

If you have something relating to the history of Savage that you'd like to donate, email us at questions@danpatch.com or call 952-890-1669.

Meet the Board (Continued)

Barry Stock is an avid pickle ball player and enjoys gallivanting around with his sidekick – Otis Einstein (Norwich terrier). Now that he's retired, Barry splits his time between a cabin in Pine River, a winter get-away home in Green Valley, AZ and of course – Savage. He is best known as Savage's city administrator and other various roles over his 21-year career. Barry grew up in nearby Prior Lake and in 1998 moved to Savage with his wife Lorna and five boys.

Janet Bohn Williams is a lifelong resident of Savage raised on the Lynnhurst Dairy Farm. She has had many firsts in her life – the first Savage librarian and the first woman mayor of Savage. She is a charter member of the DPHS, was the secretary until last year, and continues to do the behind-the-scenes tasks. She and her longtime friend and retired DPHS Board member, Nancy Oster Allen, led the engraved brick fund drive to "Bring the Savage Depot Home." She and her husband, Will, had three sons and two grandchildren.

Will Williams always has a story to tell and uses those skills to educate others about the city's history at schools, on radio & TV programs, at the Twin City WW II Roundtable, State Fair, and many other groups. He speaks about Dan Patch, Mr. Savage, Camp Savage, Cargill shipbuilding during WW II, and many other historical topics concerning Hamilton and Byrnesville. Will's storytelling skills were honed while working with the late Jens Bohn and the late George Augustinack, all of whom are charter members of the DPHS. Born and raised in Savage, Will and his wife, Janet, had three sons and two grandchildren.

VISIT US

Heritage Room / Museum
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13090 Alabama Avenue
Savage, MN 55378

HOURS

Monday 10am-6pm
Tuesday 12pm-8pm
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Friday 10am-4pm
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NEED A SPEAKER?

Let us know! We specialize in Dan Patch, M.W. Savage, and Savage, MN area history.

In person or virtual options available.

We speak for free, but a donation to the Dan Patch Historical Society is welcomed and gratefully appreciated.

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DAN PATCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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