



DAN PATCH

Historical Society

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 64 / SPRING 2026

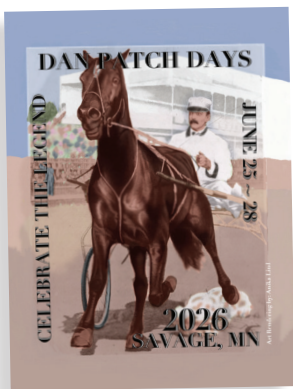
DAN PATCH



HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MISSION

The Dan Patch Historical Society preserves the history of the city of Savage, the horse, Dan Patch, and its owner, M.W. Savage.



IN THIS EDITION

- 2026 Dan Patch Days Button
- 2026 Horseshoe Hunt
- A New Way to Donate

CAMP SAVAGE (1942-1944)

World War II – Heroes at Home

The Dan Patch Historical Society worked with members of the Twin Cities Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League to develop a poster that captures the history of Camp Savage, an integral part of World War II history.

By Dr. Karen Tanaka Lucas

For years, it was a secret.

On 132 quiet acres in Savage stood one of the most important—and least known—military intelligence schools of World War II. From 1942 to 1944, Camp Savage trained soldiers in Japanese-language military intelligence. So sensitive was its mission that its existence remained classified until the 1970s.

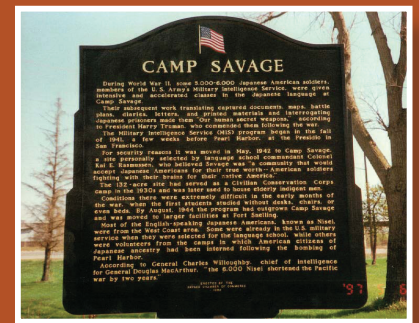
After Pearl Harbor, the U.S. Army urgently needed Japanese-language specialists. Very few Caucasian Americans spoke the language fluently, so the military turned to Japanese Americans. Most were Nisei—second-generation citizens born and raised in the United States. Yet even among them, only about 10 percent had sufficient language skills to qualify. Many volunteered while their own families were being forcibly removed from the West Coast and confined in mass incarceration camps.

The Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS) began at the Presidio in San Francisco but moved to Savage in June 1942. Minnesota Gov. Harold Stassen offered the former Civilian Conservation Corps camp for the school. In part, Minnesota was chosen because it lacked the intense racial hostility found elsewhere.

At Camp Savage, a three-year curriculum was compressed into six demanding months. Between 1942 and 1944, 1,800 soldiers completed the program. The pace was relentless. Lights-out did not always mean rest—students were known to study by the glow of latrine lights late into the night.

Students studied reading, writing, and speaking the Japanese language; analyzed captured documents; conducted interrogations; and mastered *heigo*, Japanese military terminology. They learned Japanese geography and map reading, interpreted radio signals, and deciphered *sōsho*, a cursive script often used for battlefield commands. Students were expected to learn as many as 50 complex *kanji* characters per day. Training also included psychology and cultural understanding.

(continued on page 3)



VISIT THE DAN PATCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOOTH

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

Come visit us at the Dan Patch Historical Society booth and pick up some great swag, such as coloring books, keychains, and candy; plus, get famous on Instagram by taking your picture with the Dan Patch cutout.

We will be selling DPHS buttons and memberships, and you'll enjoy learning all about your hometown's history while cooling off in the shade of our tent. Learn about Dan Patch's prowess as a racehorse, the colorful history behind the city's namesake, and find out about the Japanese language military school that played an integral part to the country's WW II effort.

PARADE

The Dan Patch Days Grand Days parade is a time-honored tradition that brings the community together. It runs from 11:00 a.m. – noon on Saturday, June 27, in downtown Savage. Check the Dan Patch Days website, www.danpatchdays.org, for the parade route and full schedule of events.

Mr. Savage and Dan Patch will be on our float, so you can't miss us! We look forward to seeing your smiling faces and waving to you from our top spot near the beginning of the parade. We will be throwing out candy and honoring our Horseshoe Hunt winners.



Dan Patch Items For Sale

Need a great gift idea for holiday giving, birthdays, or just because? We have a variety of items for sale. Books: Images of Savage (\$20), Great Dan Patch and the Remarkable Mr. Savage (\$15), Dan Patch Electric Railroad (\$15), International Stock Food Farm (\$25); Postcards (\$1). Previous Dan Patch Days Buttons (\$5). Prices listed are for cash or check, tax included. Mail orders to DPHS, P.O. Box 1:55, Savage, MN 55378 (\$5 S&H apply), email us at DanPatchHS@gmail.com, or call 952-890-1669.

OTHER EVENTS

Most Dan Patch Days 2026 activities take place at Savage Community Park, 13500 Dakota Ave., unless otherwise noted. For more detailed information, go to www.danpatchdays.org. In the event of inclement weather, visit the Dan Patch Days website and social media channels (Facebook and Instagram) for the most up-to-date information on the status of events, including closings or postponements. Dan Patch Days tickets are non-refundable.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

- Savage Rotary Craft Beer and Wine Tasting Fundraiser: 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the McColl Pond Environmental Learning Center. Cost: \$30. Tickets go on sale June 1.

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

- Adult Night at Dan Patch Days: Gates open at 5:00 p.m. Cost: \$20 cover charge. Also \$8 each for alcoholic beverage/cocktail tickets, which are good Friday and Saturday night. (No outside coolers/food allowed.) Live music by The Odd Goods at 6:00 p.m. and The Fabulous Armadillos at 8:30 p.m. Bring your own lawn chairs.

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

- Dan Patch Days Grand Day Parade: Lineup is at 10:00 a.m. Parade starts at 11:00 a.m. in downtown Savage. No cost to attend.
- Family Day at Dan Patch Days: Noon – 11:00 p.m. No entrance fee. A variety of family friendly activities and music topped off by fireworks. (No outside coolers/food allowed)

SUNDAY, JUNE 28

- Savage Fire Department Pancake Breakfast: 7:00 a.m. – noon at Fire Station #2, 13105 Dakota Ave. Cost: Free-will donation.



Recent Donations

Doug Neve (pictured on the right) of Lebanon, Oregon, donated a Dan Patch tobacco pouch that he found at a garage sale in Tangent, Oregon. The owner did not know what it was so Doug told the story since he grew up in the Savage/Prior Lake area, and the guy gave it to him.

John & Lee Hovanetz, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, donated three DVDs – the 1960 Dan Patch Parade, 2007 Dan Patch Days, 2009 Dan Patch Days. They made the DVDs from the films they found in their Dad's archives. The 1960 parade is currently on Savage TV and is a delightful!

Rob Fendler, Savage, Minnesota, donated his vast collection of Dan Patch Days buttons, plates for prizes, and framed pair of Dan Patch and Mr. Savage storyboards (which are hanging in the entrance to the large meeting room in the Savage Library).



ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The Dan Patch Historical Society's Annual Meeting will be on **July 16, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.** at the Savage Public Library, 13090 Alabama Ave.

World War II – Heroes at Home, continued

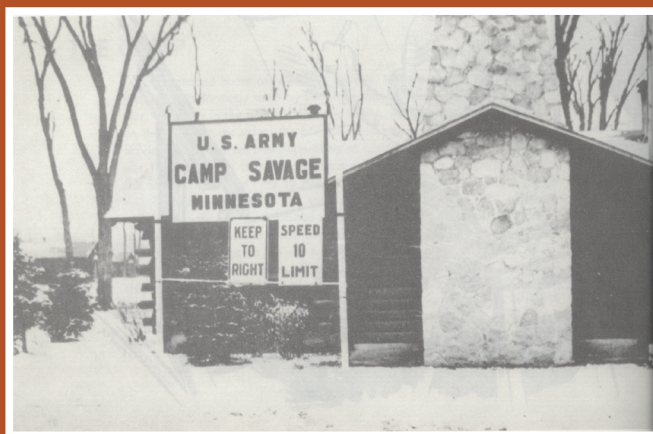
As the program expanded, so did the camp. New barracks, 36 classrooms, officers' quarters, a gymnasium, theater, mess hall, auditorium, and even a secret radio monitoring shed were added. The curriculum continually evolved based on reports from the Pacific front. By August 1944, the school had outgrown Camp Savage and moved to Fort Snelling, where another 4,000 linguists were trained.

Graduates served in every major Pacific landing. They translated battle plans at the front lines, interrogated prisoners of war, persuaded enemy soldiers and civilians to surrender, and staffed intelligence centers behind the lines.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur declared, "Never in military history did an army know so much about the enemy prior to actual engagement." Intelligence officials later concluded that the Nisei shortened the Pacific War by two years and saved countless American lives.

Today, a flag and plaque on Xenwood Avenue mark the site—quiet ground where language, loyalty, and determination helped shape history.

*Dr. Karen Lucas is a third generation Japanese American. Originally from California, she graduated medical school in Minnesota and practiced family medicine for over 30 years before retiring from HealthPartners. She lives in Apple Valley and is currently on the board of the Twin Cities Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League and a volunteer on their education committee. She and her family recently published a book about her father, *When a Tiger Dies: The Life of Walter Tanaka*.*



MEMBER RENEWAL FORM

Name _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

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

Kathleen Dempsey, Pompano Beach, CA
Patrice Harter, Angola, IN
Dawn Bergman, Wilsonville, OR

Barry & Lorna Stock, Prior Lake, MN
Jed & Jenny Williams, Savage, MN
Mike & Nancy Huddleston, Burnsville, MN

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

A NEW SAVAGE, NOT AVERAGE BADGE



Keep an eye out for these new Savage, not average, police department badges, featuring Dan Patch.

The Design

The main feature on the badge is the horse and sulky. This piece was taken from an actual image of Dan Patch and Marion W. Savage. Towards the top of the badge is a banner reading "EST. 1958," representing the year the Savage

Police Department was established. Some of the more unique pieces of the badge are the "1:55" hidden on the right

side of the badge, symbolic of Dan Patch's record time. At the top and bottom of the badge are four gold horseshoes. Typically, these locations have X's, but the team decided to replace them with horseshoes to better fit Savage. You may even notice that the horseshoes are pointed upward to keep any good fortune from falling out.

The Process

In 2024, Chief Brady Juell commissioned his team to create a new badge design. This set in motion a nearly two-year process from original sketches to the pinning of the new badge. While the previous design had served the agency for over 40 years, it was a standard design. It was time to create something that would represent the city and its history.

DONATE TO THE DAN PATCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

As a volunteer-driven organization, we count on donations to support our ongoing educational efforts through digital platforms and community engagements. Please consider donating to the Historical Society.

Is your donation tax deductible?

Yes, the Dan Patch Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and your donation is tax-deductible as allowed by law. Our Tax ID is 41-1751337.

Donate Online

To use the QR code, open the camera on your phone and open the link when prompted. Zefty, the donation app, will walk you through the steps. Please note that paying a fee is optional, but to bypass the default option amount, click the down arrow, and choose "other" in the box that asks about fees. Choosing "other" will bring that fee down to 0.00.

Send in by Mail

Donations can be mailed to:
Dan Patch Historical Society, P.O.
Box 155, Savage, MN 55378.



Dan Patch Days

GET YOUR 2026 BUTTON

Price: \$5.00

Where To Buy: Savage Public Library, Savage City Hall, the Dan Patch Historical Society Booth at Dan Patch Days, or ask a DPHS Board member.

Drawing: Saturday, June 27, during Dan Patch Days. Need not be present to win.

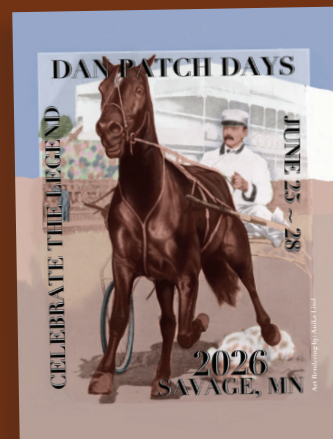
Purchasing a button gets you a chance to win one of three prizes:

- 1970 Dan Patch Whiskey Decanter (empty), donated by Tausha Chamberland
- Limited Edition Savage Blanket, donated by the Jens Bohn Estate
- 3 Dan Patch Collector Plates, donated by the George Augustinack Collection

Design: Acknowledges the 120th anniversary of Dan Patch's recording-setting time of 1:55 at the Minnesota State Fair.

Proceeds support the historical preservation and traditions of the city. Collector buttons have been a tradition at Dan Patch Days ever since the community event was started in 1953. The complete button collection is on display at the Heritage Room, and some are still for sale!

Come and see us at our booth on Saturday to learn more about how we're preserving the city's history and how you can help support our nonprofit organization.



Button design by Anika Lind



DAN PATCH DAYS 2026 HORSESHOE HUNT

To win the \$100 prize, you must purchase a Dan Patch Days button. Five dollars is a great investment, not only for the prize money, but also for bragging rights! The winner has the opportunity to ride with the Dan Patch Historical Society in the parade.

Clues released FOUR WEEKS before Dan Patch Days, and if needed a fifth clue will be released!

The annual horseshoe hunt is sponsored by the DPHS and takes place every year preceding Dan Patch Days. A horseshoe is hidden somewhere within the city of Savage, on public property. Clues are available on the Dan Patch Historical Society's website, www.danpatch.com/horseshoe-hunt or at the Savage Library.

The hunt has taken place since 1996 and has always been sponsored by the DPHS. Buttons are available for purchase at Savage City Hall, the Savage Public Library, or from any Dan Patch Historical Society member.

Rules

- Clues are given out each week that will lead to the location of a special horseshoe hidden somewhere on public property within the city of Savage boundaries.
- Whoever finds the horseshoe **MUST** have purchased a 2026 Dan Patch Days button in order to win \$100.
- The lucky winner also gets to keep the commemorative horseshoe.
- Do you think you found it? Email us at DanPatchHS@gmail.com.



VISIT US

Heritage Room / Museum
SAVAGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

13090 Alabama Avenue
Savage, MN 55378

HOURS

Monday	10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Tuesday	10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Wednesday	12 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Thursday	10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Saturday	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Sunday	12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Extended Access Service is available. Anytime the library is open, you can visit our museum. Extended Access allows residents and other Scott County Library Services cardholders aged 16 and older to use the Savage Library anytime from 6 a.m. – 10 p.m. every day. Enrollment is required and can be completed with library staff during regular business hours.

IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

If you're wondering when to renew your membership, check the mailing label on your newsletter. In the upper right-hand corner, there's a date (month and a year) that has been highlighted. That's your renewal date.

Complete the membership form and send your check to: Dan Patch Historical Society;
P.O. Box 1:55, Savage MN 55378,
or drop it off at the library.

CONTACT US

DanPatchHS@gmail.com

www.danpatch.com

Library Phone: 952.707.1770

Board Member Phone: 952.890.1669

DAN PATCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Savage, MN 55378

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