

History Book of Arrowmen

Wahpekute Lodge 53

Compiled by:

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C1-A Section Conclave 2014, Fort Ripley

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## Wahpekute Lodge 53

### In the beginning

It took more than 40 years to find the right name for Lodge 53. It all began in 1930 when Mini Ska 53 Cedar Valley Council was chartered. The name was then changed to Wapaha 53 Cedar Valley Council in 1955. By 1969 the National Boy Scouts of America said that the Wapaha 53 Cedar Valley Council needed to merge with Mazasha 69 Minnesota Valley Council to form the new lodge Midewiwin 53 Twin Valley Council. (At that time in history it was common for councils to merge to make larger and fewer lodges.) When lodges merged, they took on the lower number of the two lodges, so they went with 53.

At a December 1968 conclave new officers were being elected during a meeting in the Waseca Agriculture School in Waseca, MN. This was where the Wapaha Lodge 53 Cedar Valley Council normally went for their events. At the Conclave there was a committee of 15 Scouts meeting in the library trying to come up with names. The boys did a lot of research on various tribes: Winnebago, Dakota, Chippewa, and Ojibwa. The only criterion was they couldn't copy an existing tribe, so they had to change the spelling that they chose to Midewiwin.

The search for the right name for the organization was not over, however. At the 1973 National Order of the Arrow Conference, Lodge 53 was told they were following an active Indian religious society too closely, and they had to again find a new name. (The Ojibwa Grand Medicine Society is still in existence today on the Red Lake Indian Reservation.) So Lodge 53 started to work with Ruben Sinclair, a Dakota Native American who was a Scout and Communication officer in WWI with General George Patton. He was one of the Dakota Indians that famously helped to decode messages during the war. Sinclair said that the Midewiwin 53 Lodge could use the name Wahpekute. This was Sinclair's family name, and since this was a family name, no one could trademark it or use it without approval. Since the Lodge now had Sinclair's approval to use the name, no one could tell them in the future that they couldn't use it, and the name's translation "hunter amongst the trees" suited the group of boys to a T. The Wahpekute tribe was the smallest of the Dakota tribes with approximately 550 people. It has been documented that the Wahpekutes were widely known as a group of outlaws. While our current Lodge members don't fit that description exactly (!) – it is true that we are a very energetic, in-your-face group when we get together for our Conclaves our creative and diverse character becomes clear.

During the Spring Camporee, Sinclair gave a talk to the boys in the Dakota language. He didn't speak any English, but the boys knew what he was talking about by the signs he made. They decided that

night to make Sinclair an honorary member of the Wahpekute 53 Lodge in gratitude for the generous offer of the use of his distinguished family name for their organization.

The Order of the Arrow is Scouting's National Honor Society. Its purpose is to recognize those who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law. Promote camping and responsible outdoor adventure for every Scout's experience. It develops leaders and crystallizes the Scout's habit of helpfulness into a purpose of cheerful service to others.

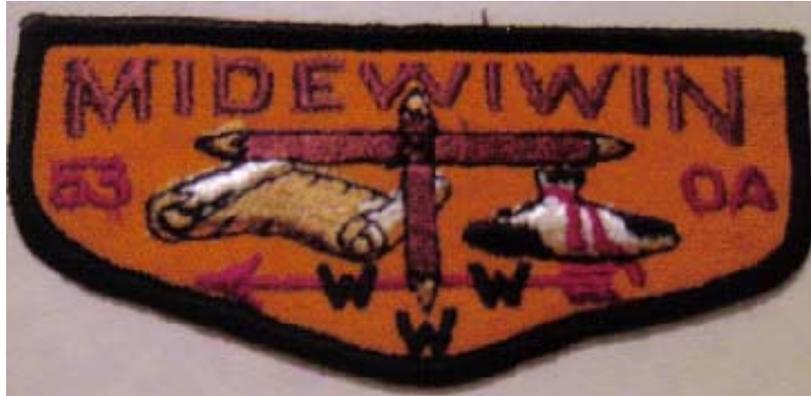
This is a depiction of the Lodges as they merged together.

Cedar Valley Council Mini Ska 53 → CVC Wapaha 53 →

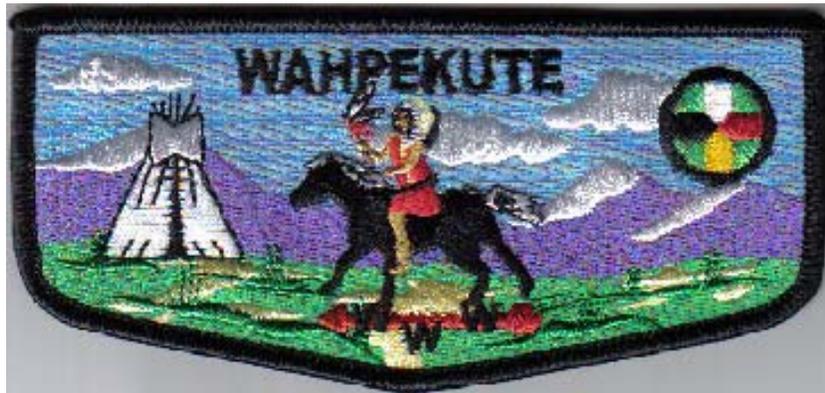
Twin Valley Council Midewiwin 53 → TVC Wahpekute 53

Minnesota Valley Council Mazasha 69 →





Patch photos courtesy of Paul Willaert.



### Looking Back at Aspects of Order of the Arrow

#### Lodge Totem

The Lodge Totem for Wapaha Lodge was the pine tree. The design for the Midewiwin pocket flap featured medicine bags and scrolls. The Lodge had originally wanted to have scallop shells on it behind

the medicine bags, but that was too much decoration. The cross they had could be used since it wasn't a typical Christian cross; it was made of pointed sticks. When the Lodge name changed to Wahpekute the totem changed to the Tepee. On the original pocket flap there was a bow and arrow, but it's no longer there today due to National Order of the Arrow policy. The Wahpekute flap today depicts a horse and Indian rider against a mountain backdrop and a grassy green foreground.

### Publications

Several years ago the Order of the Arrow put together a camp promotions book. This booklet is still used today and can be found on the Twin Valley website in the Wahpekute Lodge section. It was called "Where to Go Camping". This is a booklet that provides names of places to go camping and their contact information. The booklet was sent to all the troops in the Twin Valley council each year to help promote camping sites for the troops.

Each quarter The Medicine Wheel newsletter is published by Wahpakute Lodge. This newsletter is sent to all active Lodge members via email and posted to the Lodge website located on the Twin Valley council website.

### Camps

The council has used various camps over the years as their Council Summer Camps or Camporees. In the 1900s - 1919 Camp Patterson on Lake Washington in Southern Minnesota was used. In the 1920-1930s Cedar Point on Iowa Lake became the camp site. In the 1940s to 1966 Norseland was utilized. And from 1997 to the present Camp Cuyuna in Northern Minnesota near Cross Lake has been the summer camp which features the patrol method type camping. The benefit of using Camp Cuyuna is that it is a bigger area than either Norseland or Cedar Point, and it has the benefit of offering a northern camping experience to scouts from Southern Minnesota. Camp Luck in Wisconsin was in competition with Camp Cuyuna for the main summer camping council camp. Camp Luck on Straight Lake and Boy Scout Lake is still in use today as an undeveloped Wisconsin, state park. You can hike, canoe, kayak and portage at this location. A national survey was conducted, and it was found that Camp Cuyuna has better water quality and more land mass than Camp Luck. The survey also concluded that being in northern Minnesota offered a better northern camping experience than Camp Luck which was subsequently sold to the Wisconsin State Park system.



Portrait of Ma-Za Sha at Camp Cuyuna

#### OA Work Projects

The Order of the Arrow has been very active in the upkeep of the various camps used by the Council. It is the main group that keeps up the walking trails, cleans up the fire sites and works on the pioneering projects. For many years the OA work weekends were out at Norseland, since the Conclaves were

always held out there. Then in 1971, the organization switched to having the work weekends be at Camp Cuyuna at the end of the camping season in August.

During the late '70s a decision was made to move the work weekend to Spring Conclave, and also keep the work weekends in the fall. This way, the OA could help get the camp up and running for the summer and help out the staff. The boys currently do the work weekends this way, and they also conduct maintenance weekends throughout the year as required.

The OA hasn't been in charge of building particular building at camp. Rather there have been sponsors for that such as the Cuyuna Alumni Association or business sponsors. What the OA has been in charge of was the maintenance of buildings and the upkeep of the trail systems.

OA has also been involved in portages. At one time there was a portage from Command Lake (Also known as Russell Lake) to Bass Lake and Daggett Lake that was part of the White Fish Chain. One of the portages was 3/10ths of a mile and one was 7/10ths of a mile.

### Camp Ceremonies

When the spring ceremonies were held at Camp Cuyuna originally they took place on the northern part of family camp. This changed around the 1990s. There was one Ordeal Ring and a Brotherhood Ring. Today the rings are on the north and east side of Command Lake today. The trouble with having the ceremonies held at family camp was that this was on the other side of camp, and there was a lot of walking to be done in the dark. Brotherhood was usually done at dusk, and then the Ordeal ceremony was completed after dark; so safety became an issue. Also, National BSA now has a policy of not having more than 50 people in a ceremony at one time, so there were two Ordeal rings. The only trouble with this was that if you had two rings going on, you had to have two full ceremony teams trained as well. With the new rings inside camp, two Ordeal ceremonies are held one after the other with one ceremony team.

Today the Ordeal and Brotherhood Ceremonies are held at Camp Cuyuna, but the Vigil Ceremony was moved to Norseland and Cedar Point during the 1990s on a rotating basis. Since the 2000s, Norseland has become the primary site. The Vigil ceremony had been held at Camp Cuyuna during the '70s, '80s, and '90s. If you look close enough, you may still find some of the original Vigil sites. The Vigil Ceremony Ring with Alter Ring is still in use today for Vigil rededication at Spring Conclave.

A funny story from Paul Willaert was when he went through his Vigil Ceremony in September 1972 it sprinkled out that night, but not too bad. He had his poncho with him so he was able to keep dry. The following year his friend Harlan Logemann was going through Vigil, and it poured and poured. Typically, you would stay out by your fire until 7 a.m. to get picked up to come back to the ceremony site. Well, Harlan misread the instructions paper and packed up his site and was waiting for his pick up at four

o'clock in the morning. So he waited at the road side for three hours before someone came to get him. He had a poncho with him, so he was able to stay somewhat dry.

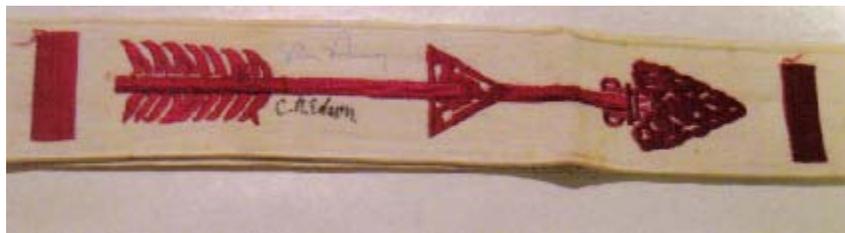
Vigil is a very hard process to do. After working all day doing service projects throughout the camp, staying up all night keeping your fire going and then cooking breakfast the next morning, it took a lot out of the participants.

#### OA activities

Today the Order of the Arrow is active in doing concession stands at various events. This can be during the Expo's, camporees and at various merit badge workshops. The OA also does service projects such as yard clean ups in the fall time. In 1960s there was a dance team called Gentgeen in the Mazasha Lodge. This group performed at various events. They were a good group, but not at the level to perform at the National Order of the Arrow Convention (NOAC).



Gentgeen dance team patch courtesy of Paul Wagenius.



NOAC 1973 Vigil sash signed by Dr. E Urner Goodman and Carroll A Edson, courtesy of Paul Willaert.

#### Pocket flaps

When the lodges were starting to merge there was an opportunity to design new pocket flaps. Clinton Cole was the Cedar Valley Council's executive director, and he subsequently moved over to Twin Valley Council. He never wanted to pay a lot of money for the patches, so they were pretty one dimensional and didn't have much design interest. When the mergers started the boys discovered that there were

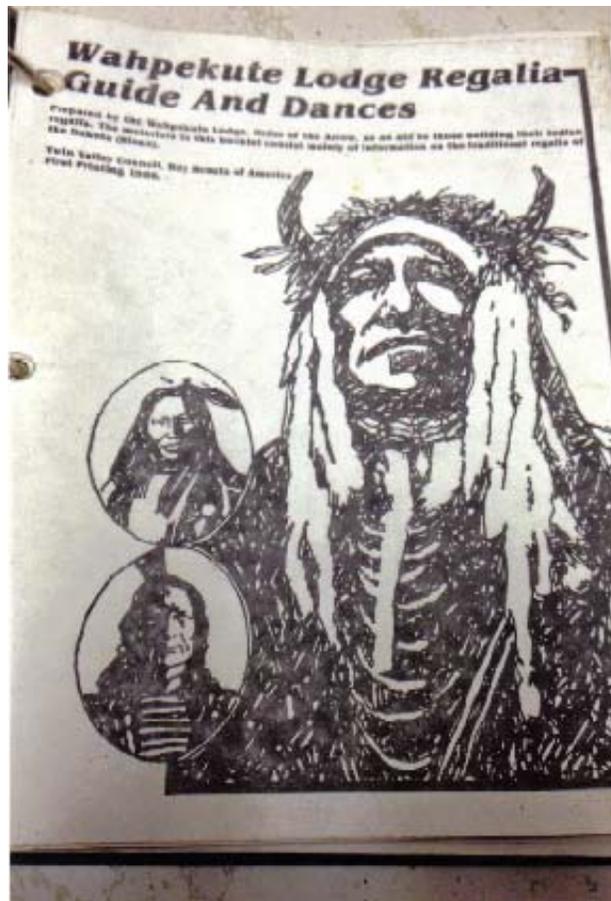
more ways to design their patches, and they really liked the embroidered style that is used today with all of the colors and patterns that made the patches come to life.

In the past when you became part of the Wahpaha 53 Lodge, you were given one pocket flap for life. If you lost it, you were out of luck, Ward Ask was fortunate enough to be contacted by someone who wanted to give away an old uniform. The person apologized for all the patches on the uniform and wanted to take them off, but Ask knew just how rare the Wahpaha Lodge 53 patches were and said that it wasn't a problem to leave the patches on the shirt. As a result he was able to get two original patches for the Wahpaha 53 Lodge.

### Regalia

The regalia for the ceremonial figure Nutikut came from a bear taken at Camp Cuyuna in about 1981. The story goes that two scouts were in a tent that had door flaps on each end of the tent. The boys heard a lot of noise and yelled out to the others scouts in camp to quiet down. The noise kept going on and the scouts were getting rather annoyed so they peeked through, opened the back doors of the tent and came face to face with a bear. The camp was given permission from the DNR to kill the bear, but they couldn't keep the meat. However, they kept the hide, claws and teeth of the bear and used them to make parts for the ceremony team's regalia. (Ask isn't sure if Wahpekute Lodge 53 still has the necklace made from the bear or not.)

The camp has a booklet that describes all the different ways to make the regalia needed for the ceremonies. It is called Wahpekute Lodge Regalia Guide and Dances It is very helpful in describing the various parts of the outfits and if they have any special meaning. It is based off the Dakota.



### Awards/Events Hosted by Wahpekute

Wahpekute 53 has earned the E. Urner Goodman Camping Award three times. Wahpekute 53 earned an award in 1984. Twin Valley council #283/Wahpekute 53 earned an award in 1986 and Midewiwin 53 earned this award in 1970.

Wahpekute Lodge has hosted the following Section C-1A Conclaves: Blue Earth in September 10-12, 1999, Blue Earth September 9-1, 2005, and Faribault County Fairgrounds September 9-11, 2011. The Lodge will be hosting the future 2017 Section Conclave. Details are already in the planning process.

The Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting occurred on December 14, 2012, in Newtown, Connecticut, when a 20-year old fatally shot 20 children and six adult staff members. This included two Cub Scouts. Our lodge felt deep sorrow for these two Cub Scouts and our Lodge Chief, Cody Taylor set up a fundraiser with left over popcorn from the previous year. We raised \$250 which was sent to them.

Concerning recent National Order of the Arrow Conferences, in 2006 Wahpekute Lodge had nine members attend in East Lansing, Michigan. In 2009 it was held at Indiana State University in Bloomington, Indiana, Wahpekute Lodge had 19 members attend. The next NOAC was back to Michigan State University in East Lansing and there were 21 members there. For the 2015 National Order of the Arrow Conference it will be held again at Michigan State University, Wahpekute Lodge has 62 members registered, 42 youth and 20 adults.

In preparation for NOAC 2015 the Waphekute Lodge has completed many fundraisers in order to make the trip more affordable. On June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013 the Order of the Arrow held their 4<sup>th</sup> annual golf tournament at Southfork Golf Course in St James, Minnesota. There were 13 teams with 52 participants. The group was able to raise \$3,500. They are planning the 5<sup>th</sup> annual golf tournament again in hopes to use the funds for the bus ride out to NOAC.

Along with the golf tournament they have sold various items like baseball hats, stocking caps, bracelets, lanyards, tee shirts and pullovers. The funds from these articles will also be used to help offset the cost for the trip.



Along with fundraisers for NOAC, Wahpekute Lodge came up with a Lodge Rock and a Lid that was sent to National for the 100<sup>th</sup> year celebration. They also needed to come up with patches for NOAC. The designer was Corey Ehlert. The rock was made and donated by Monuments by Miller. Cody Taylor, Steve Knuth and Monuments by Miller came up with ideas for it. The rock was made in the spring of 2013 and sent to Ray Capp, National OA Committee Chairman. When they sent it off, Steve and Cody thought it was funny for the mailman to be thinking this guy is getting all these heavy packages from all over the country. National will use the rocks to make a fireplace at NOAC. The lid was painted by Nikki Baker who is a painter/artist in our lodge. She painted the lid to symbolize the Command Lake waterfront of our council camp, Camp Cuyuna.



Rock designed by Cody Taylor, Steve Knuth and Monuments by Miller



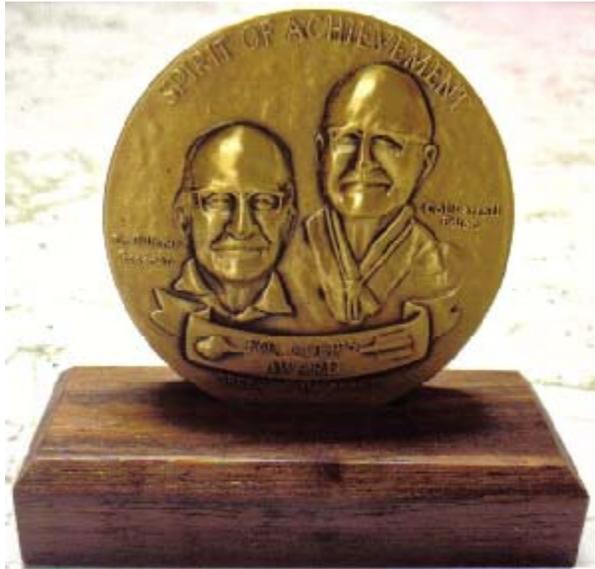
Lid created by Nikki Baker



NOAC 2015 patches designed by Corey Ehlert.

Quality Lodge was earned in 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011. JTE Gold was earned in 2012 and again in 2014.

Wahpekute Lodge OA Founders Award Recipients: 1994 to 2014:

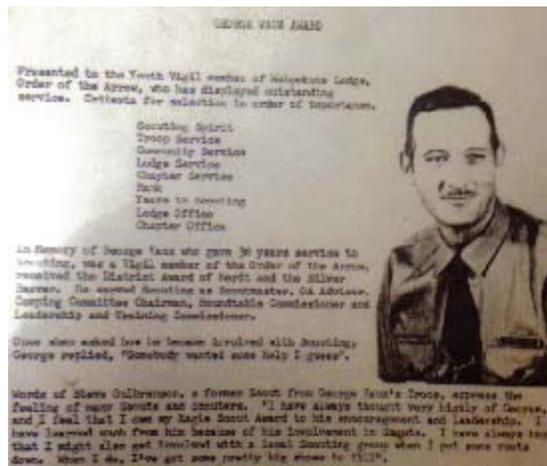


Founders Award, courtesy of Steve Knuth

- 1994: Dave Gette (A), Eric Momsen (Y)
- 1995: Ric Koval (A), Jared Budenski (Y)
- 1996: Don Amundson (A), Benjamin Koval (Y)
- 1997: Jim Menton (A), Ryan Dorland (Y)
- 1998: Jay Holcomb (A), Chris Schmidt (Y)
- 1999: Hank Kolbinger (A), Brad Holcomb (Y)
- 2003: Allen Nuessmeier (A), Tyler Karp (Y)
- 2004: John Frerichs (A), John Fretham (Y)
- 2005: Kathy Shane (A), James Ellison (Y)
- 2006: Alan Schroeder (A), Kevin Schroeder (Y)
- 2007: Keith Fitzpatrick (A), Travis Lang (Y)
- 2008: Tom Hallett (A), Hal Bohrer (Y)

2009: Keven Maxa (A), Matt Maxa (Y)  
 2010: Steve Knuth (A), Foster Graif (Y)  
 2011: Paul Willaert (A), Mike Sargent (Y)  
 2012: Mike Baker (A), Greg Rasmussen (Y)  
 2013: Dan Sargent (A), Cody Taylor (Y)  
 2014: Paul Taylor (A), Noah Wilson (Y)

George Vaux Award for Outstanding Service Wahpekute Lodge:



Plaque at Camp Cuyuna

The George Vaux Award is presented to the Youth Vigil member of Wahpekute Lodge, Order of the Arrow, who has displayed outstanding service. The criteria for selection in order of importance includes: Scouting spirit, Troop Service, Community Service, Lodge Service, Rank, Years in Scouting, Lodge office and Chapter Office.

The award is in memory of George Vaux who gave 36 years of service to Scouting. He was a Vigil member of the Order of the Arrow, received the District Award of Merit and the Silver Beaver. He served Scouting as Scoutmaster, OA Advisor, Camping Committee Chairman, Roundtable Commissioner and Leadership and Training Commissioner.

Once when asked how he became involved with Scouting, George replied, "Somebody wanted some help I guess."

Words of Steve Gulbranson, a former Scout from George Vaux's Troop, expresses the feeling of many Scouts and Scouters:

"I have always thought very highly of George, and I feel that I owe my Eagle Scout Award to his encouragement and leadership. I have learned much from him because of his involvement in Scouts. I have always hoped that I might also get involved with a local Scouting group when I put some roots down. When I do, I've got some pretty big shoes to fill."

The George Vaux award is given for service in the previous year. For example, Cody Taylor's date is 2012, but the award was given at Spring Conclave in June 2013.

1982: Douglas Raney	1983: Paul Ritz
1984: Todd Oberg	1985: Pat Kunkel
1986: Mike Ulman	1987: Roy Ballard
1988: Scott Grabow	1989: Keith Fitzpatrick
1990: Jeff Kunkel	1991: Rhett Johnson
1992: Paul Cox	1993: Jason Hoeve
1994: Reed Scholl	1995: Adam Dahlen
1996: Richard Sohn	1997: Ryan Dorland
1998: Blake Bjortomt	1999: Andy Miller
2000: Sam Cotton	2001: Tyler Karp
2002: John Fretham	2003: Alan Kuhl
2004: Jimmy Groebner	2005: James Ellison
2006: Jack Sargent	2007: Foster Graif
2008: Nate Roberts	2009: Ben Goebel
2010: Greg Rasmussen	2011: Mike Sargent
2012: Cody Taylor	2013: Kody Cummings

The Lodge established the Ed Smock Award in 1965 to honor those who have given outstanding service to Cuyuna Scout Camp. This award recognizes those who have served our camp in the spirit displayed by the former longtime Cuyuna ranger, Ed Smock. Each year the Lodge funds a campership in honor of the current recipient.

1965: Carl Hage	1966: Burt Mellum
1967: Ed Smock	1968: Elmer Fritts
1969: Winfield Forsberg	1970: Art Morness
1971: Arron Thistal	1972: Rex Hendley
1973: Bill Small	1974: Russell Ziegahn
1975: Gene Dahlen	1976: Charles Besendorf
1977: Alvin Johnson	1978: Kenny Hanson
1979: Harlan Logemann	1980: Ross Bloomquist
1981: Dan Scheuer	1982: Al Diedrichsen
1983: Bruce Paulson	1984: Ben Lammers
1985: Jon Bartlet	1986: Ward Ask & Ace Christianson
1987: Quinton Pettigrew	1988: Roger Schultz
1989: Pat Kunkel	1990: Mike Kunkel & Dick Dahlen
1991: Brad Hove	1992: Chuck McMahon
1993: Wendell Sohn	1994: Dave Gette
1995: Paul Willaert	1996: Reed Scholl
1997: Brad Hove	1998: Glen Shaulk
1999: Jim Menton	2000: Ryan Dorland
2001: Kevin Cole	2004: Tom Hallett
2005: Harold Kruse	2006: Steve Knuth
2007: Mike Baker	2008: Don Halverson & Keith Fitzpatrick
2009: Bob Homer	2010: Rob Groebner
2011: Richard Rustman	2012: Melinda Roberts

2013: Robert Sitzman

2014: Foster Graif

Adult Advisers with their Lodge Chiefs

OA Adviser History:

1930-1967 records for Advisers missing

Lodge Chief History:

1930-1950 records missing

Wahpaha Lodge Chief:

Dropped July 1936- Feb 1952

1952 Arnold Wiens

1953 Unknown

1954 Roy Meyers

1955 John Robert Ostrander

1956 John Ostrander

1957 Paul Steichen

1958 Bruce Mac Loren

1959 William Uggen

1960 William Uggen

1961 Tom Dormady

1962 Tom Ness

Mazasha Lodge history

1951 Ross Roberts

1952 Philip Cowan

1953 Phil Cowan

1954-55 Paul Radke

1956 Thomas Beager

1957 Leo Rentz

1958 Jack Narolby

1959-1960 Richard Lundin

1961 Ronnie Scheid

1968 Robert Gulbrandson ----- 1968 Tom Smith

1969-70 William Stanger ----- 1969 Lynn Gulbrandson

1970 David Larson

1971 Eugene Dahlen ----- 1971: Kevin Larson

1972 Don Ortley ----- 1972: Paul Willaert

1973 George Vaux ----- 1973: Steve Perry

1974 Elliot Larson ----- 1974: Rick Anderson

1975-77 Charles Besendorf ----- 1975-76: Arden Haug

1977: Al Light

1978-89 Ward Ask ----- 1978 and 1979: Al Light

1980 and 1981: Doug Raney

1982 and 1983: Paul Ritz

1984: Todd Oberg

1985: Chad Thomas

1986: Kevin Ehlert

1987: Roy Ballard

1988: Joe Wallschlaeger

1989: John Panzer

1990 Jon Bartlet -----	1990: William Groskreutz III
1990-91 Don Ritz -----	1991: Paul Cox
1992-94 Bob Hamilton-----	1992 and 1993: Paul Cox
	1994: Reed Scholl
1995-98 Fredric Koval -----	1995: Jared Budenski
	1996 and 1997: Chris Schmidt
	1998: Ryan Dorland
1999-07 Allen Nuessmeier -----	1999: Chris Cousins
	2000: Sam Cotton
	2001: John Fretham
	2002 and 2003: Tyler Karp
	2003: Jeremy Schwanke
	2004 and 2005: Jimmy Groebner
	2006 and 2007: James Ellison
2007-present Steve Knuth -----	2007 and 2008: Foster Graif
	2008 – 2010 Nate Roberts
	2010 and 2011 Greg Rasmussen
	2011 – 2013 Cody Taylor
	2013-2014 Nate Krueger and Noah Wilson
	2014 Noah Wilson

## Memories from a past Section Chief: Arrowman Foster Graif

At the same moment that Foster Graif was starting his freshman year at college he was also taking on the role of Section Chief for the Section C-1A Chapter of the Order of the Arrow. He says the skills he learned in this position are still helping him out in his life today.

One of Graif's favorite memories during this time was meeting Arrowmen from all over the section along, with meeting people from different parts of the country while attending national and regional events.

When asked what motivated him to take on such an important role as Section Chief Graif replied that he wanted to be an inspiration to other Arrowmen in Waphekute. "This was something that no one in our lodge had ever accomplished and at the time, I just wanted to inspire youth to get involved. I also just thought I was the best person for the job. I wanted to help the OA as effectively as possible and I felt that was by being there to support more lodges than just my own. I really care about the organization and what we accomplish."

Graif said that the people skills he acquired are the most effective ones he still uses today. Especially at the two most recent jobs he has held which are as a teacher and Camp Director of Camp Cuyuna. "Both jobs require good people skills and an ability to present yourself well in front of others," he said. He was asked to use those skills on numerous occasions during his time as Section Chief. He pointed out one can see that this is a very important skill set even today when you look at the current leadership. The young men that are involved at the national level are very well spoken and engaging with the groups when they make presentations.

The Vice Chiefs and the lodges in 2008-2009 while Graif was serving were: Addison Hendricks, Vice Chief from Ka'niss Ma'ingan and Jack Golden from Pa-Hin, Secretary. They were also both Lodge Chiefs of their lodges during his time. The other Lodge Chiefs were Kevin Van Duyn from Tetonwana, Nate Roberts from Wahpekute, David Sandquist from Totanhan Nakaha, and Tom Brault from Naguonabe.

Graif did a lot of traveling during that year. He was able to visit five of the six lodges in our section. This entailed traveling to various events and conclaves in North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota. He also went to Kansas City, Missouri for the National Leadership Seminar; Rochester, Indiana for the Section Officer Seminar; Dallas, Texas for the National Planning Meeting and then to Bloomington, Indiana to work on staff at the 2009 National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC).

He had a lot of training at all the various seminars he went to, but the most training came from the National Leadership Seminar and Section Officer Seminars. A lot of the training was very OA specific, but he did receive a lot of general leadership training as well that has helped in various phases of life. However, the leadership training probably best served him in another area of scouting which was his time as Camp Director at Camp Cuyuna.

One of the most important duties Graif had was to plan the Section C-1A Conclave. He luckily had experience planning conclaves from his time as lodge chief and this was very similar to that but on a much grander scale. There were a lot more people with whom to communicate. He was very proud of the conclave he helped. He was also in charge of the two Council of Chiefs (COC) meetings they had prior to the conclave. His second most important duty was to assist the lodges. The Section Vice-Chief was in charge of the Lodge Assistance Program (LAP) and Graif helped him out with that a lot. "I wanted to be as much of a resource for those lodges as possible, and my number one goal as Section Chief was to see the individual lodges succeed," he said. His third duty was to be our section's representative at the national level. He accomplished by working with other Section Chiefs and national leaders across the county to plan the 2009 NOAC. He traveled to Dallas for the national planning meeting where he took part in the election of the National Chief, National Vice-Chief and Region Chief. He was then placed on the Chief's Core Committee. He worked with three other Section Chiefs to make sure everything was set to go for that portion of NOAC.

(Keep in mind that by fulfilling all these duties as Section Chief, Graif was also a freshman in college. He said what made his amazing commitment possible was that he really believes in the organization.)

When asked about what he sees as a challenge for scouts today he said it's the lack of people. When he was a youth in scouts there were already plenty of the "it's not cool" attitudes from his friends, and there were certainly other opportunities that were pulling his friends away from scouts. Now it seems that there are even more of those opportunities. There might be some other factors that are causing numbers to drop; so it can be frustrating for the scouts sticking with it. And it can also make finding youth leaders harder than it used to be. When you have a lack of leadership, whether youth or adult, the organizations within scouting will struggle, he said.

As for what advice he could give current Arrowmen who may be considering looking at leadership positions on the local or national levels, Graif had this to say, "Don't be afraid to leave a legacy. Think hard about what you're truly capable of and go for it. You are probably more capable than you realize. You can make a serious impact on a great organization if you set your mind to it."

Clearly Graif's thoughts are great advice for Arrowmen in all aspects of life today.



Artwork at Camp Cuyuna, artist unknown.

#### Historic and Current events around Twin Valley Council Area

- The Dakota War in 1862. This began on August 17, 1862 along the Minnesota River in southwestern Minnesota. It ended in a mass execution of 38 Dakota men on December 26, 1862 in Mankato.
- 2015 was the 43<sup>rd</sup> Mahkato Annual traditional Wacipi in Mankato. This is honoring the 38 Dakota who were executed in 1862. The public is invited to this annual Pow Wow event. Participants will dress in traditional clothing. The goal of the Mahkato Mdewakanton Dakota Education Committee is to work collaboratively with Mdewakanton Dakota and non-Mdewakanton Dakota communities in the design, development and implementation of cultural educational programs and activities. Such programs and activities will be designed to promote positive relationships through increased awareness and understanding of Mdewakanton Dakota and non-Mdewakanton Dakota.
- Reconciliation Park in Mankato, MN has a two part history. On September 19, 1997, Reconciliation Park was dedicated. The park is the site of the largest mass execution in U.S. history where 38 Dakota Indians were hanged by the government. This was the result of trials during the U.S. Dakota Conflict of 1862. Tom Miller sculpted the buffalo from a 67-ton block of local Kasota limestone; it is surrounded by native flowers and prairie grasses. The buffalo symbolizes the spiritual survival of the Dakota People and honors the Dakota heritage of this area. On Dec 26, 2012, on the 150-year anniversary of the execution, Mankato hosted a Memorial and Dedication, with around 500 Native American and white people both calling for healing and forgiveness. Also during this ceremony, a large buckskin-looking script was erected with the names of the "Dakota 38," as they are known.

## Biography of author

Henry Youngberg is a 15 year old sophomore at Waseca Jr Sr. High School. He joined Boy Scouts in February 2010 and was elected into OA in 2012. He is a Brotherhood member of Wahpekute Lodge. Last summer he was a counselor in training at Cuyuna Boy Scout Camp near Cross Lake, MN. He is a Life Scout who has experienced numerous camping adventures and especially has a love of the outdoors. A point of inspiration for Henry is that his dad is an Eagle Scout. He is a varsity soccer and track athlete, sings in his church choir and school chorus and looks forward to returning to Camp Cuyuna each summer. He also helped kids with their reading on a church mission trip to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in S.D. Henry says "I value Boy Scouts for the leadership skills it teaches you as well as the many other skills you acquire from the merit badges. Above all, I enjoy camping outdoors." One of the reasons that Henry took on the challenge of working on this history of the Lodge is his love of history that he inherited from his grandfather who was a high school history teacher for 50 years.

### The 4 Districts that make up Wahpekute Lodge

The Twin Valley Council is divided into 4 districts based on geographic area. These districts help support units and provide Scouting program to youth in these areas.



Great Bend district is made of up of the following communities:

Amboy	Arlington	Cleveland	Eagle Lake
Gaylord	Good Thunder	Henderson	Janesville
Kasota	Lake Crystal	Madison Lake	Mankato
Mapleton	Nicollet	North Mankato	Pemberton
St. Clair	St. Peter	Waldorf	Waseca
	and	Vernon Center	

North Star district is made up of the following communities:

Blue Earth	Butterfield	Ceylon	Delavan
Elmore	Fairmont	Heron Lake	Jackson
Lakefield	Lewisville	Odin	Mountain Lake
Sherburn	St. James	Trimont	Truman
Welcome	Windom	Winnebago	Okabena

Sioux Trials district is made up of the following communities:

Belview	Comfrey	Courtland	Fairfax
Franklin	Hanska	Jeffers	Lafayette
Lamberton	Madelia	Morgan	Morton
New Ulm	Redwood Falls	Sanborn	Sleepy Eye
Springfield	Storden	Wabasso	Walnut Grove
	Westbrook	Winthrop	

Southern Trails district is made up of the following communities:

Adams	Albert Lea	Austin	Alden
Brownsdale	Bricelyn	Clarks Grove	Easton
Freeborn	Grand Meadow	Frost	Glenville
Hayward	Kiester	LeRoy	Minnesota Lake
Lyle	New Richland	Walters	Wells

#### Sources for Lodge History

- Interview with Mankato Scout Master from Boy Scout troop 24, Paul Willaert, Mankato West Shop Class, MN. Paul is a Vigil member in OA. He was the major source of information about OA for this history.
- Interview with former Waseca Scout Master and former Wahpekute Lodge Adviser, Ward Ask, Grace Lutheran Church, Waseca MN.
- Interview with Associate Lodge Adviser, Tom Hallett, Scout Office in Mankato, MN. Tom clarified key information about the Lodge.
- Collaboration with Steve Knuth, current Lodge Advisor for current event and award information.
- Several of the patch images came from Paul Willaert and many of the photographs were taken at Camp Cuyuna near Cross Lake, MN.
- Interview with Forster Graif for his firsthand experiences as Section Chief in 2008-2009 via email.
- Twin Valley Council Website.
- Records of Lodge Chiefs from 1930 to 1968 were incomplete and difficult to discern in terms of OA Advisers. Future researchers will want to sort this out for the benefit of the Lodge.
- Audio tape recording of Wahpekute History.