

## Heritage Preservation Month Trowbridge Park Band Shell: Part 1

To understand the significance of the Trowbridge Park Band Shell, it is necessary to understand the importance of the man to whom it is dedicated.

Ira C. Trowbridge was born in Lyle, Broom County, New York on March 16, 1823. Upon becoming of age, he moved to Chicago, Ill. and became a salesman with Gregory and Robertson, in the boot and shoe trade. In 1846, he moved to Woodstock, Ill. and set up a boot and shoe establishment of his own, marrying Judith Church of his home town the same year. Mr. Trowbridge resided in this city operating this establishment as well as some work in real estate for 20 years. In 1866, Mr. Trowbridge came to Wilton, Minnesota to investigate the railroad being surveying. It is related, that he met with chief railroad engineer W.G. Ward and surveyor J.H. Jenkins and convinced these men that the ideal layout for the railroad was just south of Clear Lake and Loon Lake. He then purchased the surrounding land starting with Jacob Myer's farm which was just north of the proposed railroad tracks, with the vision of starting a town. In 1867, Mr. Trowbridge moved his family to Minnesota and had Mr. Jenkins plat the town of Waseca on July 22, 1867. The town grew simultaneously with the railroad tracks being laid, with over 100 homes, stores, and buildings by the end of December 1867. Mr. Jenkins and Mr. W.G. Ward each married one of Mr. Trowbridge's daughters, Augusta and Ella respectively, on December 9, 1867, thus further sealing their relationship. Therefore, the City of Waseca was born with Ira C. Trowbridge as its founder on land that he owned. He continued to actively serve the city with his generous gifts of land and public service until his death on October 3, 1893.

The Trowbridge Park Band Shell was built in 1915 as a memorial to their father by Augusta Jenkins and Ella Ward on park property deeded by the Wards to the Waseca School District in 1910. In gratitude, the name of the park was changed from City Park to Trowbridge Park.

Photo:  
Photographic  
Postcard: 1916

