



Anoka County
Historical Society



HISTORY 21

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Scandium (atomic number 21) is our spirit element

AnokaCountyHistory.org

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Front Cover: Unidentified baby in a Ticknor family photograph album. This happy baby in cloth diaper is enjoying the sunshine, undated circa 1910

Object ID#: 1975.I



From the President

Summer is coming. Even though our excitement increases when we think of sunny days, plants in the garden and kids running through sprinklers – the calendar pages keep turning.

Because our summers are so short, we guard our time and try to stuff as much into it as possible. There is so much to do and so little time. Something to consider when building summer plans – attending your local community festival.

Anoka County is blessed with a variety of events with 17 celebrations scheduled for 2017. Many of these festivals date back decades or more, to the time before the urbanization spread out so far, to the time when most communities were smaller and their citizens more connected to each other.

Not all community events are what they once were. This year “49’er Days” became “Fridley Fest,” condensing from three days to just one day due to the difficulty of finding volunteers. In Blaine, the story is happier – the “Blaine Blazin’ 4th” (which was not on July 4) turned into “Blaine Festival” a few years ago, with a completely new volunteer group and a renewed spirit (but still not over July 4).

The point is – we can’t take these community festivals for granted. We need to support them, patronize their sponsors and most importantly – we need to ATTEND them. Community doesn’t happen by itself and these touchstones with our past demand our participation to remain touchstones for the future. ACHS will be there! Come with a purpose and represent ACHS at your local festival.

Get your calendar – and have a fantastic summer!

Orville Lindquist, ACHS President



From the Director

Too often the tendency we all have to retreat into our shells, comfortable with the way we do things, wins out over seeking others to challenge us. This is especially true when limited budgets reduce the opportunities for continuing education. I had the pleasure of attending the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums (MAHLM) conference in Walker recently to surround myself with 120 other history geeks who exude pride in their organizations, a drive to improve, and the optimism to know it could all work--peppered with keen questions and a healthy dose of pragmatism. I presented twice, relaying our experiences at ACHS in making ourselves stand out from the crowd and also about our Museum Boxes for the middle schools. I received some fantastic program ideas, updates on our collections software, and helpful tips for helping our researchers use the Minnesota Historical Society resources for genealogy work. Can't wait to put them all to good use!

Rebecca Ebnet-Mavencamp, Executive Director

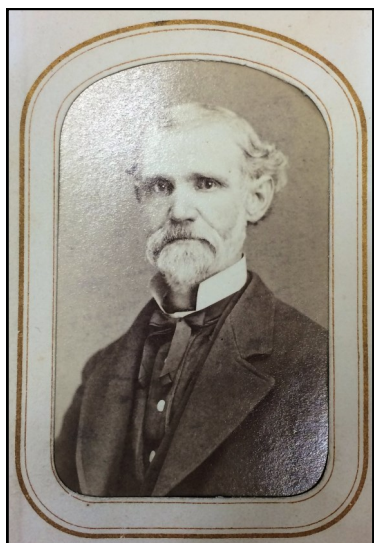


LOOKING GOOD AT 150

Birthdays mark milestones each year—our successes, our challenges, our memories. They provide a time to ponder our growing past and plan our shrinking future as time marches on to the infinite drumbeat we all know. The childish exuberance with which we counted down months and weeks to the special day, losing sleep over the candy and presents surely to rain down on us from family and friends, culminated in a puff of smoke. We would grin at those gathered to sing, proud to be the center of attention. We would extend our eager hands to strangers, holding up stubby fistfuls of fingers as a badge of honor for adding yet one more year. At a certain point, however, we stopped feeling pride in the addition of another year, gaining a more practical outlook of our milestones. Unlike people, buildings tend to pass their early birthdays relatively unnoticed—no party, no presents, no cake. Perhaps a nod to the calendar date, should construction have proven particularly memorable. This year, however, the city of Anoka can pause to take note of the impressive birthday of one of its oldest residents: the lovely Ticknor Hill.

The first generation of the Ticknor family were among the original white settlers in Anoka. Born in 1827 in Massachusetts, Heman (often misprinted as Herman) Ticknor moved to Anoka in 1855 and helped shape the growth of this fast-expanding area. Early town residents constructed buildings on the West side of the Rum river, just north of the Mississippi River. Albert Goodrich, in his history of Anoka County in 1905, credits Heman Ticknor with shifting the businesses to the East bank. “Mr. Ticknor came to the conclusion that the east side would eventually be more favorable for trading purposes, and accordingly made overtures to the town site proprietors for the purchase of twenty-five feet on the corner of Main street and First avenue...” wrote Goodrich.

While the purchase of that lot fell through, Heman opened his first Dry Goods Store in 1855 “on an inner lot.” Five years later, he converted the store into a cigar



Heman Ticknor

manufacturing business. Building upon his success, Heman expanded his businesses to include a Drug Store, which he opened in 1864.

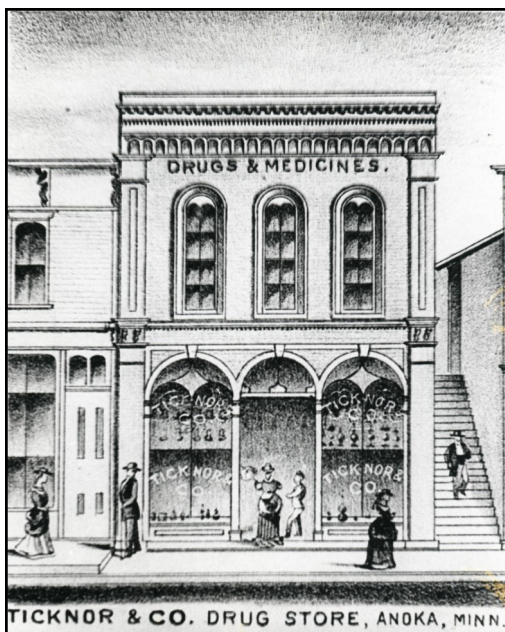
Three years later, the Ticknor Hill home appeared in the landscape of Anoka. Constructed for his new wife, Anna Sweeney Greenwald, and her two young sons from her first marriage to Aaron Greenwald, the mansion boasted a “T” shaped floor plan. In this original configuration, the front entrance overlooked the confluence of the Rum and Mississippi Rivers. Still evident today are the original Gothic elements comprised of gables and their elaborate bargeboards, along with the arched windows in the front façade from the first plans. On the inside, visitors will find three fireplaces, one built with locally manufactured brick.

Their plans changed which side of the home the public considered the “front.” They divided the existing structure into three sections and then the front (west) section facing the river switched places with the rear (east) section while the center section remained intact. These subtle but significant changes gave the house a fashionable new Third Avenue South address-- highly desirable in 1901.

Historians believe the change of address contributed a great deal to the desire to remodel. Architectural changes to the tower section included Queen Anne and Neo-Classic elements. The family added a full front porch along with Corinthian columns, a projecting bay window, and *porte cochere* (a gabled structure a car could pass beneath.)

In 1930, the next generation took possession of the house. Natalie Niles, daughter of John and Zale, married Arthur Lee Smith. That same year, the Smiths built a one and a half story addition to the back of the house. A few years later, they made further modifications to the residence,

Following Heman’s death in 1901, his daughter Zale, and son-in-law, John Niles, took up residence in the home and put their own unique architectural touches in place. John worked as an attorney while Zale worked within Anoka’s well known Philolecitan Society to help establish a city library.



Drawing of Ticknor Drug Store, Main St., undated

dividing it into three sections for apartments. In 1977, descendants of the Ticknors sold the home whereupon extensive interior remodeling converted the house into a duplex. That same year, the house received a designation on the National Register of Historic Places.

By 1996, the famed house had assumed yet another role—that of bed and breakfast. Once again, the house underwent substantial remodeling, this time to create four separate rooms with a private bath to accommodate patrons. Exterior renovations did not result in any major changes to the structure.

Through all of these changes, the house has retained its history and charm as well as its Third Avenue address (even though the home's driveway is now only accessed from Jefferson St.).

To honor the home's 150th birthday, its place on the National Register of Historic Places, and the family's deep connection to Anoka County history, ACHS has a number of plans to celebrate.

In 2016 we applied for, and received, a grant from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund for \$6,000 to compile and write MNopedia articles on all 18 National Register Properties in Anoka County. MNopedia (<http://www.mnopedia.org/>) is a free, online encyclopedia whose mission it is to “share current, reliable and relevant information about significant people, places, events, and things in Minnesota history.” Unlike Wikipedia, where any user can edit any article, the content of MNopedia is evaluated by the Minnesota Historical Society and written by historians, researchers, and experts prior to publication. MNopedia articles provide the curious with an easy read on hundreds of different topics spanning Minnesota history, its people, and buildings. The articles written by ACHS staff and contributors are a maximum of 700 words, intended to draw people into the history and stories behind Anoka County's historic places. These articles are currently under review by sites editors and will be available online by the end of the summer.

A short article is static and limited, so to capture more of the story of Ticknor, ACHS again teamed up with QCTV (Quad Cities Television) to produce the next episode of *It's Your History*. By focusing on the home and its story, this episode not only touches on the history, but also delves into some of the items in the ACHS collection. ACHS Archivist Audra Hulse reveals packages of tobacco sold in the Ticknor store, Heman's painted portrait, and an intricately beaded shawl Anna Greenwald Ticknor wore in the 1880s. Each item is a reminder of *how* the Ticknor family lived, not just *where*.

The final segments of the show take you behind the scenes of the Bed & Breakfast



View of the Ticknor home, circa 1898



*“Mother Ticknor” Anna Sweeney
Greenwald Ticknor*

with Lynne Rickert, a Ticknor family descendent, who began the business, as well as Deb Wallace, the current proprietor. Ever have that feeling of needing some time away...but not needing the hassle of packing on the miles to feel that relief? How about wanting the joy of a cozy fire, lovely people to deliver coffee to your door, and the warm smells of omelets and French toast wafting up the stairs? Linen napkins? Plush carpet? A whirlpool? Today’s Ticknor delivers.

Mark your calendars for even more of ACHS’s birthday present to Ticknor—a new exhibit and a special Heritage Home and Garden Tour! You can get a sneak peek at the gallery hall in June, but the big reveal detailing even more of the Ticknor family story will not be one to miss during Anoka’s Riverfest on July 8. While the family’s history in Anoka dates to 1855, the legacy goes back even further to England and includes original land grants approved by King George III in the 1700s. It’s not everyday that we

have items over 200 years old on display at the history center—this is one not to miss! That and cake—we’ll have cake! And dancers, don’t forget the dancers from ‘Nmotion Dance Studio who will return for an encore performance after their debut last summer.

The culmination of the birthday celebration will occur during Anoka’s 14th Annual Heritage Home and Garden Tour the following day, July 9. A long-standing partnership between the Anoka Heritage Preservation Commission and ACHS that provides much-needed funds for both organizations, the tour features a variety of architecture, gardening, and history around the city. Ticknor Bed & Breakfast will be on the tour—with special games, events, music, and surprises. Croquet? Musical entertainment? More cake! Art by Arfstrom? And precautions regarding those 150 candles Deb needs to blow out!



ANOKA HERITAGE HOME & GARDEN TOUR

Visit the beautiful and historic gems
across the city of Anoka.

When: July 9

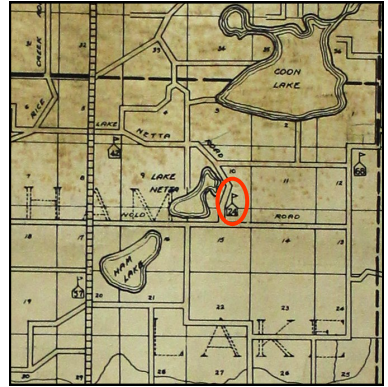
Time: 1 p.m.– 5 p.m.

Where: Beautiful city of Anoka treasures.

Tickets: early bird tickets \$12
on sale starting June 1

Lake Netta School

At one time, dozens of one-room school houses dotted the landscape of Anoka County. Some of these buildings still stand, though none are being used as school houses today. The smaller school districts “consolidated” in the 1950s and 1960s as a swiftly growing population in the county left the one-room schools unable to cope with the influx of children. During this period most of the current schools in the county were built, and the smaller districts were joined into the larger districts that we have today. For more on this story of school consolidation, please stop in to the Museum and check out the part of the *Farms to Flamingos* Suburbanization Exhibit in the School House.



What happened, then, to all of those one-room school houses? Some buildings are now gone, whether due to neglect or some other need for the land they occupied. Others remain as historical places, such as one in Ramsey, and others have been repurposed. A donation given to ACHS last year provided us with some interesting information about one of the old schools in Ham Lake – District #24, known as the Lake Netta School.

Originally built in 1889, a new building replaced that structure in 1935,



functioning as a school until 1961. At some point after that, the building was sold to private individuals who turned it into a home, and it remains a residence to this day. It is located on East Lake Netta Drive in Ham Lake. While it was common in Anoka County’s early years for rural homes to serve as schools, it has been much less common for a school to serve as a home!

The current owners of the property found items related to the school in both

the attic and the yard. While the family kept and enjoyed these items for many years, they chose to donate them to ACHS for preservation and public access. Among the items donated was a Tootsietoy brand toy truck from their line of diecast automobiles, its yellow paint rubbed off in many places; a pair of spectacles, surprisingly intact, with gold wire frames; a small, writing slate, which looks well-used; and two books. One is titled “Primary Language Lessons,” and is a grammar textbook. While it was published in 1911, a note inside the front cover indicates that it was purchased by the school as part of a set in 1924. The second book is a Spelling Workbook that was published in 1941. This one belonged to a Lake Netta student named Richard Mahnke, and he completed the whole thing.

Many paper items were included in the donation as well, including a complete attendance record for Lake Netta School from fall of 1914 through the spring of 1918

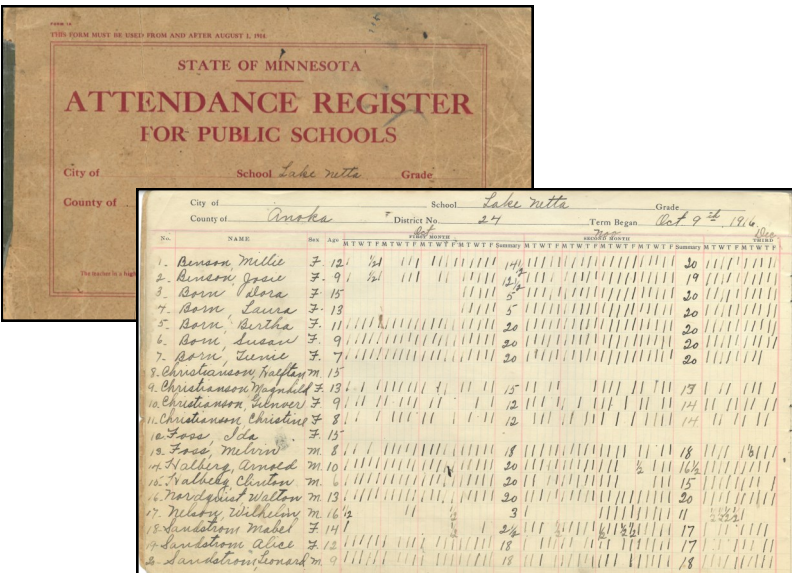


(see below), and a resignation letter from a teacher in 1924 who felt that the conditions she had to work in were untenable. School supply and book orders tell us more about how the school functioned, and reveal some surprising parallels to today: one order form dating from the 1910s to the early 1920s includes construction paper, calendars, watercolors (semi moist), building blocks, and Crayola. Not so different from supplies

that elementary school students still use today!

There are two great photographs in the collection as well, dated circa 1951. One of them (see previous page) shows a Lake Netta class outside their schoolhouse, and the other shows a different class inside the school, so that we know what their classroom looked like. The clock is visible in the second picture, telling us that it was taken at 4:05pm; the students are all sitting at their desks and look cheerful, but one imagines that they were excited about getting to go home soon. Together, the items in this donation give us a much better picture of what Lake Netta School was like for teachers and students from about the 1920s into the early 1950s.

All too often, it is luck that preserves these pieces of history for us: luck that they were not thrown away, luck that the conditions in the schoolhouse attic did not cause them to deteriorate, luck that the family who lived there discovered them and decided to save them. We are fortunate when this happens, but it would be better to not have to rely solely on luck to determine what gets preserved for the future! Here at the Historical Society, we are trying to think ahead when we can, to collect things that are easily accessible *now* because we know that they will be much harder to find 50 or 100 years from now. This is something that everyone can think about – what parts of your story, or your family’s, would be easier to save now, rather than later?

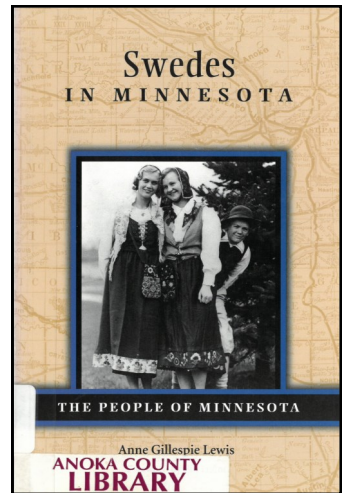


Welcome to an introduction to the fascinating material available in the Anoka County Historical Society Reference library. While the ACHS must limit its collections to material relevant to Anoka County, the reference library contains material on a wide variety of topics. Among them is a series produced by the Minnesota Historical Society, *The People of Minnesota*, that includes, *Swedes in Minnesota*.

Within its pages, discover Swedish churches, creameries, logging camps, and boarding houses. Did you know a Swedish woman was a practicing doctor in Isanti County by the late 1880's? Learn about Hans Mattson who served as Minnesota Secretary of State from 1870-1872, the first Swedish American to hold a state office. When did the Swedish Hospital open in Minneapolis? Find the Swedish roots for Lutheran Social Services.

Swedes in Minnesota by Anne Gillespie Lewis, reports that in the 2000 Census 13% of the people in Anoka County claimed Swedish ancestry. Whether you are one of them (or only wish you were!) you will enjoy this introduction to Swedish history in Minnesota. Topics include early immigrants, settlers in rural areas and cities, churches, and cultural events. Pictures depict the history and culture of Swedes in Minnesota. Insets provide insights on specific individuals, families and businesses. Traditional Swedish foods and their role in preserving Swedish culture are included. There are two recipes for Swedish Meatballs – and a caution about asking for a recipe in a Swedish gathering. A highlight is the selection from the memoirs of Evelina Mansson. Mansson came to Minnesota in 1905, and lived here for six years. After returning to Sweden she recorded her experiences. There is information on Swedish cultural events still held in Minnesota and on organizations for Swedish-Americans, as well as suggestions for further reading.

Not Swedish? Other books in the series discuss the Irish, Norwegians, Jews, African-Americans, Germans, and Chinese in Minnesota: a reminder that Minnesotans have a multitude of histories to be proud of.



Sandy Connor has been a volunteer with the ACHS for more than 10 years. She can be found helping at the front desk at the History Center, setting up home at the Farmhouse during the County Fair, and selling tickets for the Home and Garden Tour at Riverfest. Her dedication, smile, interest in local history, and sparkly glasses cannot be matched.



Night at the Museum

FUNDRAISING DINNER SERIES

Reserve your spot now for our exclusive Night at the Museum dinner events. Each night offers a gourmet, plated dinner, behind the scenes tours, and special artifacts. Each dinner has a different theme—so find the one YOU LOVE! Purchase your tickets quick, there are only 20 tickets for each dinner.

Tickets: \$50

Tickets and more information available at AnokaCountyHistory.org or Anoka History Center

JUNE 15

Schools OUT! Play with the Museum boxes that captivated students this school year.

JULY 20

Collections— Unwrapped! Witness the unveiling of some of the oddest items in the ACHS collections, and how to protect them..

SEPTEMBER 20 & OCTOBER 11

Anoka Halloween goodies are collected all over the world. Talk Halloween and get an up-close look at ACHS's exclusive collection of Anoka Halloween memorabilia.



SEPTEMBER 27 & OCTOBER 18

It's a who-done-it night. Become detectives, interrogate suspects, or try to get away with murder at ACHS's inaugural murder mystery dinners. Character sheets given prior to dinner.



HISTORY 21 GIFT SHOP



Where do you go to find the perfect gift for the local history lover? ACHS's newly updated History 21 Gift Shop!

This March, volunteers helped construct a new space to feature our items for sale. Art prints from the Jon Arfstrom collection, books written by local authors, booklets highlighting local history, and more are available for purchase at the Anoka History Center.



Can't make it to the History Center? Stop by Chema Malu at 208 E Main St. for our satellite store. With a store packed with local treasures, the ACHS gift shop gems fit right in.



Celebrating our Volunteers!

Laughter, conversation and music permeated the air at this year's Volunteer Celebration. The evening began with the first ever ACHS orchestra concert. With Mandy Meisner on flute, Rebecca on French horn, and Audra on clarinet, I conducted the piece. With the first note, everyone immediately realized that our group needed much more practice and so I finished the piece solo on my cello!



Along with the musical concert, people helped themselves to brats and cookies, played board games, put together puzzles, and connected with other volunteers they pass, but never get to talk to, throughout the year.

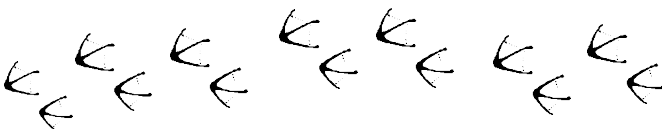
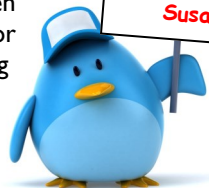


The volunteers at ACHS make our organization a better place. The 1965 History Center building with its brick, box-like construction can feel cold when you are all alone. But with the smiles, talents, skills, and passion of each volunteer that walks through the door, or the volunteer that helps bring history out into the world, turns the box into a home. Volunteers help us care for the history within our walls, but they also transform it from a static name on a page, to a living memory of our local past. While we pull out all the stops to say a big thank you once a year at this celebration, the thank yous extend throughout the year. The times you care for the collection like a gem, the times you help get the newsletter out on time, the times you tell a new friend about ACHS, the times... the times... you make ACHS a community and make it possible to share history to the county.



This event was made possible by our Gold sponsor Pierce Motel and Friend of ACHS Thrivent Financial who also helped serve the delicious food so our volunteers didn't have to volunteer at their own celebration.

Sara Given
 Volunteer Coordinator
Sara@AnokaCountyHistory.org





Meet Jane LaMusga

Where do you hail from?

I moved to Anoka in 1963 just in time to enter 7th grade in what now is the Sandburg building. Graduated in 1969 from the High School on 5th, graduation was held at Goodrich Field.

What do you do at ACHS?

Mainly answer questions! I answer the phone, help with email inquiries, and get to dabble in some genealogy research for patrons.

What is the most surprising thing you've come across while volunteering?

I love to chat with people and I have been surprised by how many people I have Anoka connections with that pop through the door— patrons and other volunteers.

What do you love?

History and how it ties into individual family stories. I hold a certificate in Genealogical Research and this is a perfect fit for my passion.

WANTED

GHOST TOUR GUIDES



Are you, or someone you know, comfortable speaking in front of crowds of people? Love local history? Intrigued by ghost stories? AND have time this Ghost Tour season (Aug-Oct.)?

Audition to be one of ACHS's new Ghost Tour Guides!

Contact Sara for more information and to schedule an interview
Sara@AnokaCountyHistory.org

Keep up with the Fun at ACHS!

Don't wait another two months to discover what the ACHS is up to. Find us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. We share photographs and artifacts from the collections, updates about upcoming programs, and a behind the scenes look at antics around the History Center.



Anoka County
Historical Society



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General Donations

American Legion Auxiliary Edward B. Cutter Unit
 American Legion Post 102
 Dennis & Darlene Berg
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 Carol & Bob Dordan
 W. Peter & Carol Enck
 Phyllis & Dennis Hepp
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 Todd Mahon & Nicole Theis-Mahon
 Jerome & Marilyn Manley
 Mille Lacs Grand Casino
 Paul & Mary Pierce
 Peter Wojciechowski

New Members

Mary Jerde
 Wilda Shelly
 Kessie Wilson

ACHS Business Members

The BIG White House
 Coon Rapids Historical Commission
 Dan Gould Jewelers
 Forest Lake Contracting
 Northeast Bank
 Nowthen Historical Power Association
 Peterson Shoes
 Pierce Refrigeration
 Terry Overacker Plumbing

Donations Made in Memory of:

Carl Steinwall
 Tom Ward



Artifact Donors

Anoka County Surveyors Office
 Anoka Halloween Inc.
 City of Anoka
 Marvin & JoAnn Christenson
 Alton “Chuck” Drury
 Rebecca Ebnet-Mavencamp
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 Jane LaMusga
 Joe May
 Paul & Mary Pierce
 Quad Cities Community Television (QCTV)
 Kathleen Snow-Miller
 Bart & Ellen Ward

Become a Business or Sustaining Member!

As a Business Member you receive membership benefits, a listing in our newsletter and website, an ACHS window cling to display,— \$75



NEW! (For Individuals or Businesses) A Sustaining Membership includes the benefits of a regular membership, a shout-out in our newsletter, and recognition on our web site. You also receive an annual free personalized Group Tour for you and 14 friends (must be scheduled in advance) will come with complimentary refreshments.— \$150

If you want more information or your business would like to become a member or sponsor with ACHS call, 763.421.0600, email Audra@AnokaCountyHistory.org or visit our website AnokaCountyHistory.org

Rum River Writers Group

Every Thursday, 1:15 p.m. at the Anoka County History Center
Open to interested and aspiring writers

ACHS Board Meetings

Second Thursday of each month. 6 p.m. at the Anoka History Center
Open to membership and the public

Rum River Rovers Baseball Team

Watch and cheer on our Anoka County baseball team. These players play a gentleman's game using original 1860s rules. Full schedule at:
anokacountyhistory.org/rum-river-rovers-vintage-base-ball/

A Living Legacy: Food, Faith, Church, Charity

May 10 at 6 p.m. at the Anoka County History Center

We're teaming up with Thrivent to present ideas on dusting off the old family cookbook to discover more about how you can adapt and update family recipes to reflect your modern situation! Add to the living legacy with a giving plan inspired by generosity; sharing of your time, talents and treasures provides meaningful ways of expressing your values and puts your faith into action! Join us to learn more of how to turn your acts of generosity into a legacy that will bless all who receive!

An Evening with Mary Woodbury

May 24 at 6 p.m. at the Mad Hatter Restaurant—1632 S. Ferry St. Anoka

Join the longest reigning resident of the Woodbury house, Mary Woodbury, at the Mad Hatter for High Tea and a journey through history.

Cost: \$45 + tax, reservations made through the Mad Hatter. Limited Seating.
www.MadHatterAnoka.com

14th Annual Anoka Heritage Home and Garden Tour

July 9, 1 p.m.—5 p.m. throughout the city of Anoka

Tickets: \$12 advance, available for purchase after June 1

Night at the Museum Dinner Series

Various dates 5:30 p.m.—8 p.m. at the Anoka County History Center

Learn more and have FUN at a dinner on your favorite topic.

See page 11 for more details.

Tickets: \$50 available at AnokaCountyHistory.org or the History Center

Ghost Tours

Book a private ghost tour for your group this summer and enjoy the history and mystery of Anoka on a beautiful evening walk. Group: min 15, max 25.

Tickets: \$9 adults, \$7 members. Schedule your tour by calling Sara at 763-421-0600



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