



Anoka County
Historical Society



HISTORY 21

Volume 48 No.3 May-June 2018

Making alcohol legal since 1933 with the 21st Amendment

AnokaCountyHistory.org

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Front Cover: Margaret (Soderquist) Livgard, daughter of Bill & Minnie Soderquist in 1932 [per Verna Lee].

Hamburgers, hot dogs and root beer. Coca Cola Sign

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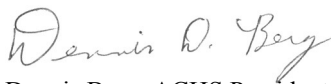
From the President

As your newly elected president I want to express my gratitude for the honor. There is no greater recognition in life than that of one's peer group. Let me introduce myself. I have lived in Anoka County since 1957 when my parents purchased a farm in Ham Lake. We later moved to a dairy farm in St. Francis. My background has always had a farm connection. My wife and I have lived on the same hobby farm in Nowthen for the past 47 years.

I am a Vietnam veteran which is a big part of my interest in history. I really believe that if in the 1960's our government leaders would have understood the history of Vietnam, the war could have been prevented. My military experience also motivated me to get involved in local government. I served approximately 20 years each on the Burns Township board and the Anoka County Board of Commissioners. I retired in 2011.

I'm a strong believer that the best decisions are made by the synergy of a committed board, which is why I'm excited about the future of the Anoka County Historical Society. With the makeup of our board, along with staff, we have the expertise available to meet any and all challenges.

We, as a governing board of the Historical Society, recognize that our true strength is the dedication of our membership and their support of our mission.



Dennis Berg, ACHS President



From the Director

It's not terribly often that history geeks feel like rock stars. Surprising, I know. But unbelievably true.

I had the privilege of presenting at History Whatever II recently. This second annual "non-conference" hosted by the Minnesota Historical Society and partners brought together not just historical organizations, but heritage groups of all kinds.

Light on Power Point presentations and heavy on discussion, this seemed like the perfect opportunity to bring up the question of, "Why, if history is built on stories and human experiences, do we consistently feel compelled to remove emotion from the conversation?"

[insert cheering and my rock star moment]

Apparently, I'm not the only one feeling trapped by the (still very necessary) academic and scholarly approach to History. Many people share the same experience of memorizing dates and timelines with little else to hold their interest in history class. It's a chore. Unless someone introduces them to an engaging, emotional story from a primary source, many people go through their lives thinking, "history equals boring."

Dates can be boring, but the people who lived the experiences are anything but. Here's to changing the face of history, so we can focus more on the heart of it.



Rebecca Ebnet-Mavencamp, Executive Director



ALBERT F. PRATT

On January 30, 1928 the Mayor of Anoka, John Palmer, issued a proclamation that all flags would fly at half staff, and stores in the city would close. While schools would remain open, the local Anoka High School students could be released from classes starting at 2:30 p.m. on February 1. All this in preparation for the funeral of Albert F. Pratt. Who was this man that an entire city literally closed its doors in order to honor his passing?

Born on September 25, 1872 on his family's farm east of Anoka, Albert Fuller Pratt's family was already established in the area. His father, Thomas Franklin Pratt, owned a creamery and land near Crooked Lake. After graduating from Anoka High School, he attended the University of Minnesota and then graduated from their law school in 1895 at the age of 23.

The young lawyer moved back to Anoka and began a practice with Judge Arthur E. Giddings with offices in Anoka and Milaca. In addition to his job as a lawyer, Pratt was already serving the community in another way. Before college, he joined Company B in the 3rd regiment the National Guard in Anoka. By 1897, Pratt was an established lawyer, and married Olive Bell Graham. With the start of the Spanish-American War in 1898, Pratt took a break from his practice and his new bride to fight as part of the 14th Minnesota U.S. Volunteers.

During the war, Pratt rose in rank to First Lieutenant, and shortly after the war became Captain. Upon his return, he reestablished his practice, but with a new partner, Wesley S. Foster. Foster could focus on the Milaca office, which left Pratt free to focus more in the city of Anoka.

The Anoka County Historical Society houses in its collection 16 boxes of

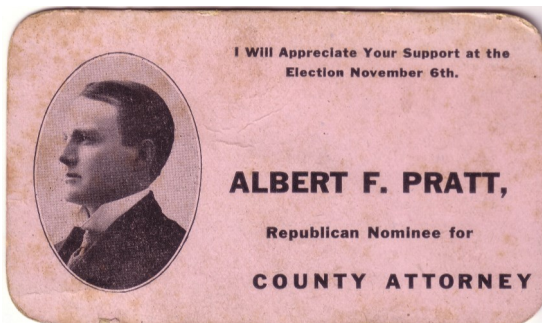
Above: Funeral procession for Albert F. Pratt headed to Forest Hill Cemetery on West Main St., Anoka.

documents from Pratt's career as a lawyer. The cases range from simple contract disputes, estate issues, and unpaid bills to divorces and even murder. Pratt became the official city attorney for Anoka in 1899 and 1900. One of the files contained in his papers is an appellant's brief for a case he most likely supervised while the city attorney. The brief describes a dispute between The City of Anoka vs. Anoka Water Works, Electric Light and Power Company and the American Trust and Savings Bank. It was "an action brought by the Anoka Water Works...against the City of Anoka to recover certain rentals claimed to be due...for the furnishing of water and light to the city." At the turn of the century, cities and utilities were still navigating their relationships.

In 1900 Pratt made the decision to run for County Attorney. The previous Attorney, Everett Hammons, had served for only two years. This position rotated through a number of prominent Anoka men, some with colorful lives. For example, George Morrill finished his service as County Attorney in 1887. One day Morrill left his home for an alleged appointment in Minneapolis, and was never seen or heard from again. Circulating rumors ranged from Morrill abandoning his wife and family for a mistress, to being murdered for gambling debts.

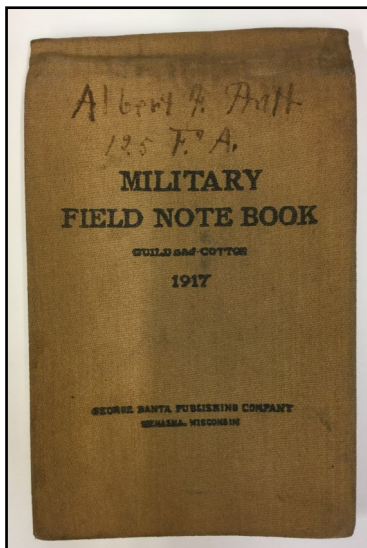
Pratt's family life was less eventful than Morrill's. He and his wife, Olive, had four children together during his time as a City and then County Attorney, between 1900 and 1906; Robert, Lucia, Thomas, and Albert. It is during his time with the County that his personal files reflect a wider range of cities represented.

One file from 1910 is a "Notice of Election for the Determination of the Proposed Incorporation of the Village of Centreville [sic]." The mimeographed copy of the legal paper noted that on September 24, 1910, Victor Dupre, Louis A. Labonne and Oliver Valois would act as election judges and organize the vote, which ultimately succeeded. In 1904, Pratt was called to represent the state as County Attorney in the State of Minnesota vs. Orlin Kalerwit, John Kold, and Charles Hammons. The three men were accused of entering Mingo's Saloon in Columbia Heights on November 22, and in the



course of robbing the establishment, fired at least two shots; One of which wounded the bartender, and another that killed Fred King, a 10 year old boy at the bar with his father for a turkey raffle. Pratt's files on the case contain a 102-page transcript of testimony from the coroner, the father of the

Captain Albert Pratt [far left] , undated.



deceased, witnesses, and the detective on the case.

In 1915, Pratt branched out from his practice as a lawyer and left his position as County Attorney to represent District 44 in the Minnesota State Legislature. His time in politics was interrupted when he once again left Anoka to serve in uniform. In 1916 he travelled with the 125th Field Artillery to the Mexican border. ACHS has some pieces of his uniform from this detail, including a canteen, ammunition belt, and a field note book.

On September 24, 1918, Lieutenant Colonel Pratt boarded the H.M.S Kashmir, a British ship assigned to ferry troops from New York to Liverpool. Now with the 126th Field Artillery, 34th Division in the U.S. Army, Pratt ultimately made his way to France. While he journeyed across the Atlantic Ocean, Pratt couldn't know that in less than two months WWI would officially be over.

Shortly after his return, Pratt received an honorable discharge as a full Colonel in the Army. Despite his retirement from active service, he joined the Reserve Corps that same year.

Pratt continued to move among the state's political circles, but this time he was appointed as the State's Assistant Attorney General. He served in this position from 1919 until December 1927 when Minnesota Governor Theodore Christianson appointed him State Attorney General.

From a small practice lawyer, through city attorney, county attorney and assistant attorney general, Pratt climbed the ladder. Unfortunately, a month later, on January 28 Mrs. Pratt called their family doctor, Dr. Caine, to their home at 241 Van Buren St. in Anoka after she noticed her husband struggling for breath in the wee hours of the morning. Before the doctor could arrive, Colonel Albert Pratt had passed away. Both local newspapers, the *Anoka Union* and *Anoka Herald*, ran extensive obituaries. The *Union* noted that "the entire community was stunned by his sudden going and the realization of the loss sustained," while the *Herald* declared that "there was no better loved nor highly respected man in Anoka county than Albert Pratt. He was able, honest, upright, industrious and sincere." With such praise from both of the competing newspapers it is no wonder that on February 1st, the city of Anoka shuttered its doors as his funeral began.



RESEARCH BOOKS AVAILABLE

By Sandy Connor

Genealogy is widely popular. The ACHS's research collection contains an extensive variety of resources for locating ancestors from across the State or across the Country. For those interested in the Daughters of the American Revolution, there are two volumes which index the names of proven Revolutionary War supporters.



I found the record of my first ancestor to arrive in colonial Pennsylvania in 1772 through the *Passenger and Immigration Lists* (Call # 929.3 PA) edited by P. William Filby with Mary K. Meyer. The research library includes three volumes and a supplement. Each volume contains an alphabetical list of names of arrivals, age at time of arrival if known, port of arrival, year of arrival, and a code for the source document. The first three volumes contain the names of 500,000 passengers and immigrants.

Using the name of the source document, I searched online and quickly found the document with more information about my ancestor. If you need a computer, you can use one free of charge at the Anoka County History Center. Information in the source document varies. I was able to find where my first ancestor went in Pennsylvania and what he listed as his occupation.

Who knows what you can find out about your ancestors?



Meet Janice! - New Front Desk Staff

If you have called or dropped by the Anoka History Center in the past month you may have heard a new voice at the front desk. This new voice belongs to Janice, who comes to ACHS through a partnership with Anoka County. Her smile, laugh and the extra set of hands she provides help with the daily tasks of running an active building.

What is your favorite thing about ACHS so far?

There are too many things! People are always the best part. I've met so many amazing people who drop in to use the resources here in the building.

Any surprises you never expected?

It was really exciting to find and work with Property Assessment books from since I worked as an assessor for 15 years. I was amazed that they assessed personal property as well as structural property. The things you can learn here!!



Hanovia Alpine Sun Lamp

If you have crossed the Ferry Street Bridge over the Mississippi River in Anoka, then chances are you will have seen the Kline Sanitarium; the large building with two conical towers on its front façade. Dr. James F. Kline built this unique structure in 1902 to be Anoka's first medical hospital. Dr. Kline already had an established medical practice in Anoka County, but wanted a location for a surgery and to help patients who needed longer-term care.

Dr. Kline used many methods to treat his patients. In addition to prescribing medicines and performing surgeries as necessary, he also encouraged clean and healthful living. A variety of "Swedish baths" were advertised as a specialty of the Sanitarium, and Dr. Kline also imported various spices from Asia, having them

packaged under his name. He thought that eating right was a big step towards getting (or staying) healthy.

He also believed in the benefits of sunlight, in this case, through the form of a sun lamp, such as this Hanovia brand Alpine Sun Lamp used by Kline at the Sanitarium. First patented in 1905, this particular lamp's most recent patent is listed as 1919, so it likely dates from the 1920s. The 1932 Hanovia Manual claims that their lamps were the "first practical artificial source of Ultraviolet Rays," and illustrations show patients under the lamp's beams for "systemic and endocrine" disorders, and the "treatment and prevention of rickets" in infants (rickets is a "softening or weakening of bones in children" due to severe Vitamin D deficiency, which exposure to sunlight can help prevent).

This particular model was fitted for AC (alternating current) power use, and originally came with a transformer attached at the base (this part was gone when the lamp came to ACHS). The lamp sits at the top of a tall pole on a three-pronged, wheeled stand, designed so that the lamp could be moved easily. The bulb is filled with mercury and is placed inside a large spherical metal hood, which can be opened or closed to varying degrees. The idea was, when fully opened, the light would shine across a large portion of the patient's body; with the openings closed down, a narrow beam of light might be directed at only a particular area the doctor was attempting to treat. The lamp was cooled by air flow.

Dr. Kline, concerned as he was with helping his patients live a comprehensively healthy lifestyle, was undoubtedly conscious of the limited sunlight we get during our northern winters, which might be limited even further for someone who was bedridden. In addition to any other benefits he may have seen his patients derive from use of the lamp, making sure they got enough exposure to UV light likely improved both their moods and their health.



15TH ANNUAL ANOKA HERITAGE

Home and Garden Tour

Sunday July 15, 2018

1 p.m.-5 p.m.

Beautiful Gardens
Federal Clubhouse

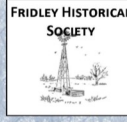
1939 Tornado Twists

Pop-up Marketplace





Anoka County
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ANOKA COUNTY
LIBRARY

Ramble back in time...



Fridley Historic Home & Garden Tour

*Step into Fridley's most famous era, the 60s: an age of
tornadoes, strength, and rebuilding*

**July 22, 2018
1 p.m. to 5 p.m.**



OAK VIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

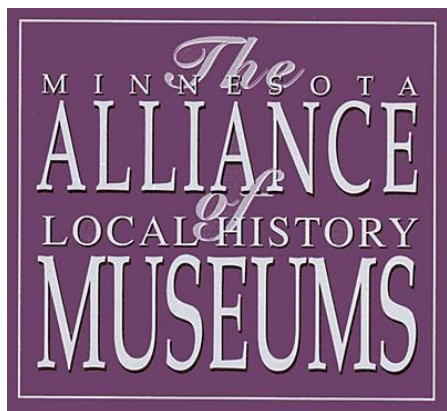
Prohibition lived again for sixth graders at Oak View Middle School in Andover this past month. On April 20, Sara Given channeled her inner flapper and gave a program six times to 12 classes of students. They started by immersing themselves in what students, classrooms, and even grocery stores and diners looked like in 1920s Anoka County. Next, they learned about Anoka County's relationship with alcohol over the years that led to the County banning the substance a full four years before national prohibition. Through all the photographs, stories, and questions, the students gained a new, local, perspective on a national event that defined our country.

ACHS AT MALHM!

Staff at the Anoka County Historical Society had the opportunity to present two sessions during the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums (MALHM) conference, held in Marshall, this April. They were intended as informational think-pieces for nearly 150 colleagues who gathered for this annual event.

The first session focused on our Phase II archaeology partnership grant, funded through the Arts and Cultural Heritage Amendment. We outlined the project, which provided for a professional archaeologist to spend time with each institution to explore Alpha Sites (past cultural locations previously documented but never formally investigated). The session also included the successes and challenges of the project to help other organizations in planning similar grants of their own. Creating awareness of issues like surprise blizzards interrupting a dig or the sheer amount of public engagement necessary will help future partnerships have a smoother experience.

The second session ACHS presented addressed the often-ignored topic of death and illnesses in staff, their families, and volunteers at history organizations. Like us, our colleagues need to develop methods of coping with loss in the workplace on both a functional and emotional level. This may include hosting memorial services, placing plaques, planting gardens, using memorial gift funds, and conducting oral histories with family members. As a group, we discussed the staff time and resource commitment of attending funerals, sending flowers, conducting home visits, or adapting the work and work structure for our volunteers.

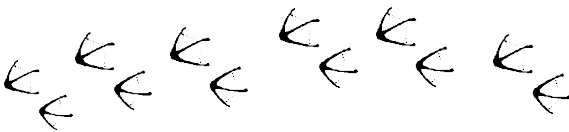




While Winter seemed to hang on FOREVER this year, Summer will sneak in and appear before you know it. It is the time of sunshine, lakes, fun and ...HISTORY! The ACHS has a number of events this summer that we need help with. Check your calendars, and sign up to help at one (or more 😊) of these programs. For much of the year we are limited to reaching the people who walk through the doors of the History Center in Anoka. While this is essential, it means that we talk to people who already know who we are and where to find us. These summer events are a chance to surprise people and introduce them to ACHS and the local history that lives around them every day. Sign up yourself, and even invite a friend to join in the fun. Training always provided. Hope to see you this summer!

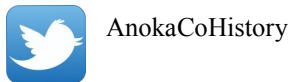
Here's to needing sunblock soon.

Sara Given
 Volunteer Coordinator
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.





VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

RiverFest

July 14

Help greet people, sell tickets and create a welcoming atmosphere for visitors during Anoka's city festival.

Shifts 2 hours.

Volunteers needed: 24

Anoka Home & Garden Tour

July 15, 1-5 p.m.

Join the 15th annual tour in Anoka. Volunteers will be stationed at stops throughout the tour to act as crowd control and to answer location questions as needed.

Volunteers needed: Approx. 30

Fridley Home & Garden Tour

July 22, 1-5 p.m.

Our first Home and Garden tour will be an amazing event! Volunteers will be stationed at stops throughout the tour to act as crowd control and to answer location questions as needed.

Volunteers needed: Approx. 30

Anoka County Fair

July 24-29

Hang out at the Old Farmhouse on the Fairgrounds, and share in local history stories and adventures to visitors throughout the day. 2.5 or 5 hour shifts available. Entrance ticket provided.

Volunteers needed: 40

Ghost Tour Guides

Training July/August

Tours September & October

Lead tour groups through the city of Anoka while retelling stories of history and mystery along the way and create a memorable and enjoyable experience for tour patrons.

Volunteers needed: 8+

Nowthen Threshing Show

August 17-19

Go back in time and help run our 1920s General Store. With penny candy, pickles, and historical toys for sale we bemoan the passage of Prohibition while chewing the fat. Shifts 4 hours, ticket provided.

Volunteers needed: 15

General Donations

AAA Auction & Realty, LLC
Helen J. Aling
Anoka American Legion Post 102
Auxiliary
Anonymous
Marlys Burman
Mike & Mary Clark
Ed & Marg Faherty
Albert & Millie Kordiak
Jerome & Marilyn Manley
Network for Good
Patricia Russell
Jean Seaborg
John C. Steinmetz
Thomas & Kristi Sullivan

Memorial Donations

Charlotte Johnson
David Legrid
Elliott Perovich
William Rock

Artifact Donors

Darlene Bearl
Sandra Clapp
Eva Mae Cleator
William DeCoursey
Suzanne Dilcher
Christine Drew
Chuck Drury
James Jensen
Jane & Wayne LaMusga
Paul Pierce III
Janet M. Ranum
Eileen Rathbun
Karen Rieks
Allan B. Stahlberg
John C. Steinmetz
Varian M. Townsend
David VenHuizen

Bart & Ellen Ward

ACHS New Members

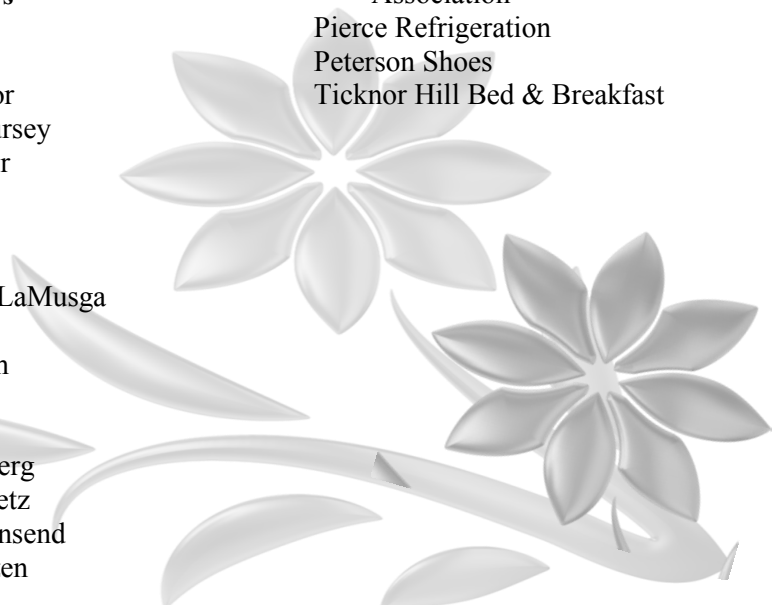
Amy Hennen
Gladys Odegaard
Chad Roberts

ACHS Sustaining Members

Northeast Bank
Terry and Gina Overacker
Rita Warpeha

ACHS Business Members

Anoka Dental
Anoka Knights of Columbus
Council 2018
The BIG White House
City of Columbia Heights
Coon Rapids Historical Commission
Fifth Avenue Dental
Forest Lake Contracting, Inc.
Hawaii Nail Spa
Nowthen Historical Power
Association
Pierce Refrigeration
Peterson Shoes
Ticknor Hill Bed & Breakfast



Visit the History Center! Open 5 days a week, FREE:

Tuesday 10 a.m.—8 p.m.

Wednesday-Friday 10 a.m.—5 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m.—4 p.m.

ACHS Board Meetings

Second Thursday of each month. 6 p.m. at the Anoka History Center

Open to membership and the public.

Indy's Graduating Class—Archaeology Series*May 10, 6 p.m.* in the Brookview – Bassett Creek North Room

Celebrate your new Archeology skills with others and get a jumpstart on what's next for the new graduates.

Pre-registration available online

The Crusade for Forgotten Souls by Susan Bartlett Foote*May 24, 6 p.m.* at the Anoka County History Center

The stirring story of the reform movement that laid the groundwork for a modern mental health system in Minnesota, including at the Anoka State Hospital. Join the Anoka County History Center in welcoming author Susan Foote for social time, a reading, and Q&A of her new book, "The Crusade for Forgotten Souls." It is available from the University of Minnesota Press and Amazon.

Tickets are FREE, but reservations are required.

Anoka RiverFest*July 14*

Stop by the History Center for fun, history, community and root beer floats. Also enjoy new exhibits, music, and performances from 'InMotion dance studio from Fridley.

Anoka Heritage Home & Garden Tour*July 15, 1-5 p.m.*

Back for the 15th year, Anoka's Home & Garden Tour takes a journey into the history of Anoka's 1939 tornado, into the Federal Cartridge Clubhouse, and into gardens filled with passion and love. Also enjoy a Pop-Up Museum and Marketplace at the Armory.

Advance tickets: \$12

Fridley Home & Garden Tour*July 22, 1-5 p.m.*

Ramble back in time and explore the beauty and history of the city of Fridley on its first Home & Garden Tour. The tour will feature the city's most famous era, the 60s: an age of tornadoes, strength and rebuilding.

Advance tickets: \$12



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