



History Center News

Newsletter of the Anoka County Historical Society

Vol. 41 No. 1

January– February 2011

SERVING:

- Andover
- Anoka
- Bethel
- Blaine
- Centerville
- Circle Pines
- Columbia Heights
- Columbus
- Coon Rapids
- East Bethel
- Fridley
- Ham Lake
- Hilltop
- Lexington
- Lino Lakes
- Linwood
- Nowthen
- Oak Grove
- Ramsey
- St. Francis
- Spring Lake Park

Lexington's Beginnings

By Todd Mahon, Executive Director

The City of Lexington, perhaps Anoka County's oddest shaped municipality insofar as its actual borders are concerned, had beginnings rooted almost as much in what they didn't want to be as what they did. What they didn't want to be was a cooperative form of government like their neighbor, Circle Pines.

Both Circle Pines and Lexington incorporated out of what had originally been Blaine Township.

Circle Pines was organized under V.S.

Petersen's vision of a cooperative community. Petersen lost his bank during the Great Depression and this experience convinced him that there was something wrong with the system and that citizens needed to organize to better leverage themselves against big money interests.

After experimenting with cooperative picnic and recreational areas, Circle Pines established itself as a cooperatively governed community in 1946. Difficulties in working with housing developers under the cooperative model, along with other issues, brought an end to the cooperative model in Circle Pines in 1950 when the population of Circle Pines voted 89-5 to incorporate as a village and effectively end the cooperative community. Yet, even after the new village was formed on the grave of the co-op, the spirit of those origins still carried over in Circle Pines

during its earliest days as a village.

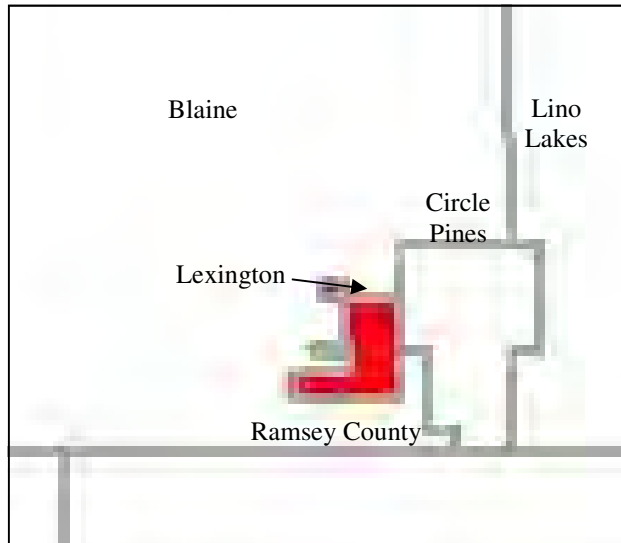
During those few brief years, Lexington residents kept an eye on what was happening in Circle Pines and some residents seemingly vowed not to follow the same path. Some of these differences were fodder for tension between the two young communities. Even as Circle Pines was in the midst of moving away from its cooperative model, the residents of Lexington began to organize a movement to incorporate their own village and one of the

main reasons for this organization was to avoid being a part of Circle Pines' cooperative model.

In early 1950, residents of the Lexington Park area met to discuss the idea of incorporating as a village. One person at the meeting offered the idea of joining with the current Circle Pines cooperative to form one village. The idea had

some traction and there were talks of exploring the idea further.

The possibility was headed off at the pass by Lexington people who were completely opposed to the idea. They quickly ushered in a new idea to incorporate Lexington on its own before the two communities could be merged. They were successful and on May 5, 1950, at an election held in a church basement on Lovell Road, the incorporation proposal passed 93-61.



History Center News is published by the Anoka County Historical Society six times yearly as a member benefit.

Anoka County History Center & Library

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Wednesday-Friday 10-5

Saturday 10-4

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From the Director...

By Todd Mahon

December 20, 2010, marked the first of more than four years of upcoming Civil War sesquicentennials. December 20, 1860, is the date that South Carolina seceded from the United States, making it the first of eleven states to formally secede from the Union.

Those of us in the history business tend to focus a lot on anniversaries. While we will likely continue to do so in the future, I'm hoping the sesquicentennial of the Civil War is more than remembering dates and honoring fallen soldiers. Those are important, but for me history has always been about defining who we are by having some real conversation and thought on who we *were*.

The divide in the interpretation of the history of the war is as old as war itself. For some, the war is the War of Northern Aggression; for others it is about realizing the promise of the Declaration of Independence and creating for equality for all. State's rights versus Federal authority; northern industrialists versus southern agrarians. Are any of these right? Are any of them wrong? A post-modernist will tell you there's room for all of them, but not everyone agrees with that.

The Civil War was the literal and ultimate dividing of our nation. It's no exaggeration to consider the United States a divided nation today, just not one that is ready to take up arms or one that falls so easily down a geographic divide of north and south. Here in Minnesota, we have seen two recent statewide elections end in near ties. The public discourse following these elections, in my experiences, didn't tend to follow a live-and-let-live philosophy.

All of this begs the question of how the Anoka County Historical Society can foster a discussion on the legacy of the Civil War and where we are as a nation today. I'm certain we'll run newsletter pieces about Aaron Greenwald and his Anoka County cohorts who were the first volunteers for the Union Army, and more, but let's all come together and do something more than that. If the next four years pass with only commemorations and honors for battles and soldiers, we will have missed the point. History is most relevant when we use it to examine who we are.

From the President...

By Paul Pierce, III

Our History Center is loaded with terrific reading options. There are so many great things to read that you really wonder if you ever need to buy a brand new book—textbooks and technical books excluded, of course! Even for pure entertainment, ACHS is really an embarrassment of riches. I was drawn to a new acquisition the other day, a 1926 *Anokan* donated by Olga 'Swede' Bengtson.

I cannot seem to pass by the yearbooks without a look because I am drawn by the artwork of those bygone eras. It was a substantial reinforcement of my observation that most change we experience in the overall quality of life is not always an improvement. Because they had smaller classes, they had room to add nicknames and a quote that was a graduates' favorite, such as Allen Chambers, "The hand that follows intellect can achieve." Or a line that the graduate obviously wouldn't have chosen themselves, but other classmates summed up their classmate, Eleanor 'Pete' Peterson with "Trust her not, she is fooling thee!"

There is Dorothy 'Dot' Leathers—"She talks all day and says nothing" and wisdom from Irving 'Bushy' Bourgeois: "Amusement is as necessary to man as labor." Comedy came with Iris 'Ira' Halls, "She's a little wild? There's time a-plenty; She'll be tame enough at ten and twenty."

There is even some mystery from Robert 'Bob' Keillor, "Girls do not interest me in the least." That's a quote that he may have felt differently about later or perhaps it was simply a bold statement.

My 1971 graduating class was so large that there was only room for a picture and a name. The small group putting together the yearbook may have never even seen you before, much less have some experience they could use to sum you up with a quote.

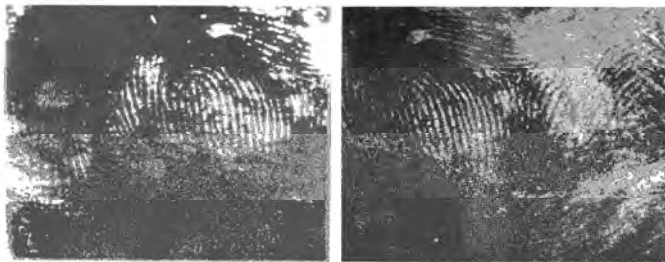
Sometimes we can "claw back" that quality of the past, such as when my daughter, Maria, graduated. Parents were invited to provide a baby picture and a quote for the graduates' yearbook. My son, Paul the IVth, graduates this year and has forbidden us from providing a baby picture or quote (but we might do it anyway!)

These are just samples of what I've found at ACHS. You can't go wrong looking through our reading materials. You can often find something that you would never have thought to look for or even had a clue you could find. That's the case with my discovery of Franklin 'Pete' J. Kline's graduation picture, the son of Dr. James F. Kline, the builder and 1926 occupants of the building my family has owned for three generations.

Fingerprints

While museums may hate fingerprints, law enforcement has made great use of them. With the new Public Safety campus in Andover, the Anoka County Sheriff's fingerprint lab was upgraded to a new building with state of the art equipment. Recognizing the importance of keeping their history, members of the Sheriff's Office staff made arrangements for ACHS to receive a unique piece of their out-dated equipment, a Polaroid MP-4 Camera System. It is a combination camera/enlarger unit used from the early 1990s until 2002 when it was replaced by digital equipment.

The camera used special film in 4 x 6 or 8 x 10 sheets, either black and white or color. It took highly detailed images of evidence, mostly fingerprints. Careful calibrations were necessary by the crime lab deputy to be sure the focal length, f-stop, and aperture were set correctly to get the best possible image. This was especially challenging when a fingerprint was on an object that was curved, such as a bottle. Special dye stains were sometimes used and filters in the camera helped bring out hidden details.



Two examples of fingerprint images made with this camera. The right one was "stained" with a dye to enhance it, the other used light to bring out details.

Objects and fingerprints could be enlarged many times bigger than life, enhanced with color, or kept at exactly life size as needed. This was called "photomacrography"—the "MP" in the name of the equipment. Deputies used a chart to help get the desired image, exposure, and contrast. Getting it right the first time was important as each sheet of film was \$3 or more depending on size.

This is a Polaroid camera, meaning the photograph came with its developing chemicals in the film's protective covering. After exposing the film, rollers in the camera spread the developing chemicals over the film. Crime lab deputies timed the process, stopped it when the image was ready, peeled off the covering, sealed it, and had a finished photograph immediately.

The idea of identification with finger or hand prints is ancient. Deliberate finger impressions are found on clay and paper articles in ancient Egypt, Greek, Chinese and Roman cultures. While these uses did record what is today known as identification to a specific individual, the use in these cultures was probably more likely to have been a



The MP-4 camera in the old Anoka County crime lab.

substitute for a signature. A hand print was likely seen as a more binding and personal agreement on a contract between two cultures than signatures in different languages or alphabets.

The first notion of the uniqueness of fingerprints came in 1788, when a German scientist studying anatomy concluded human beings had different patterns of loops, whorls, and ridges. In 1858, an English magistrate in India began using fingerprints on contracts in addition to signatures, then filed the fingerprints with the government to prevent any repudiation of the signatures. A suggestion was made of using fingerprints for identification in 1880, but the idea was not warmly received by British police.

The idea was passed on to Sir Francis Galton whose study of fingerprints resulted in his book *Finger Prints*, published in 1892. Galton estimated that the odds of two people having the same fingerprints were about one in 64 billion. At the same time Galton was working on his book, a police chief in Argentina began fingerprinting suspects and set up a fingerprint file.

Though widely discussed by law enforcement around the world, the first time fingerprints were the key evidence used to identify, arrest, and convict a suspect was in 1902. After that widely publicized trial, methods began to be developed to recover and record fingerprints, leading rapidly to fingerprints as a prime means of identification. By 1906, fingerprinting and fingerprint experts were an accepted practice in larger cities across the U.S.

Anoka County's first talk of using a person's unique finger marks came in 1901, though the first documented use of an expert in fingerprints in the county did not come until 1923 when the Post Office in Anoka was robbed. By 1927, local law enforcement officers were attending training sessions on the use of fingerprints and the new Public Safety complex has several labs dedicated to identifying fingerprints.

History—Fact or Fiction?

The following article was published in the *Falls Evening News*, published in St. Anthony, Minnesota, on December 20, 1860.

Startling news by Pony Express!
DISSOLUTION OF THE UNION
Tremendous Excitement at Manomin!!
SECESSION MOVEMENT ON FOOT.
Government Officers All Resigned!
GOV. FRIDLEY HAS CALLED A CONVENTION!
REPUBLICANS ORDERED TO LEAVE
THE COUNTY.
FORT SNELLING THREATENED!
WAR EXPECTED!

As we were just going to press, we received by the Pony Express, intelligence of the most startling character, from Manomin. Secession sentiments are spreading into the North. Manomin county has already determined to secede before the first of January. It will be remembered that this county at the late election cast its full vote for Breckenridge. Gov. Fridley has called a mass Convention to meet on Christmas day, to take final action; whether to form a new government, or to be annexed to South Carolina. A monarchical form of government is strongly favored by the masses, the Federal officers have all resigned except the Postmaster. Preparations are now making to take Fort Snelling, as soon as the new government is formed. Republicans have all been ordered to leave the county forthwith. Gov. Fridley has ordered the army to be increased to one hundred thousand able bodied men, in case of war.

LATER

The Mississippi had been blockaded opposite the city of Manomin. Steamers belonging to other States are not allowed to pass that port.

The Ferry Boats have stopped running. Great excitement among the people. Two abolitionists hung by a mob. Four barrels of Bassett's whiskey captured at the mouth of Coon Creek. A military post established at Pleasure Creek. The exportation of native rice stopped for the present. The rails on the Pacific Railroad have been torn up in the excitement, and intercourse with other States entirely cut.

Old Abe Lincoln burnt in effigy at Rice Lake. There appears to be large delegations from different parts of the State are expected to meet at the City of Manomin on Christmas day, when a State Constitution will be adopted.

STILL LATER

As these are exciting times we have kept our paper back to lay before our readers the latest news. Great preparations are still making for the secessionists to dissolve the Union. Property floating on the Mississippi is by no means safe at this time. Gov. Fridley has issued a proclamation, forbidding any one from navigating the river opposite the city of

Manomin, before the first of April, without permission from His Excellency. The steamer *H.M. Rice* is undergoing a heavy expense for fit her for the Lumber Yard; Commodore Harmon will command her, in case of war.-- Saltpeter has advanced two hundred percent in the last twenty four hours. The *Banks* have all suspended for the present. A large crowd assembled last evening the Public Square; speeches were made and the city illuminated with *gas*. Pork is declining rapidly.

At first glance, this seems like a factual report that should have come from South Carolina, the first state to secede on December 20, 1860, rather than from the heart of Minnesota. A fact check is required to see the real picture.

Manomin County was organized on the same day as Anoka County, May 23, 1857, and was a very small county, just 18 sections.

It was the area that, over the next century, became Fridley, Columbia Heights, Hilltop, and Spring Lake Park. Abram Fridley was the most notable county officer and his political stand showed him a supporter of the Southern Democrat presidential candidate, John Breckenridge. Breckenridge was a pro-slavery candidate. Fridley was also said to support States' rights, the idea that a state had the final and highest authority on the laws its citizens were held accountable to, not the federal government.



Manomin
County,
1860.

Most of the people in Manomin County are listed as farmers or laborers in the 1860 census. There were 135 people in that census, 85 males and 50 females. They belonged in 27 different dwelling places, though four dwellings were listed as "unoccupied." The majority of the inhabitants of Manomin County were organized into family units. The "masses" indicated in the article seem suspect—even if every person in Manomin County were gathered—but keep in mind, those with a political voice were only the white males over 21 years of age. No one else was allowed to vote in 1860.

As for received the message by Pony Express? Those routes never came to Minnesota. Messages and mail were occasionally delivered by a messenger on horseback, but these were never associated with the Pony Express Company in any way. An army of 100,000 men? There were hardly that many "able bodied" men in the entire state of Minnesota in 1860!



Anoka County,
1860.

The idea of tearing up railroad tracks isn't true as there were no railroads in Manomin or Anoka counties in 1860. The first tracks in either county were not laid until 1863 in Manomin and 1864 in Anoka.

Sheriff Stories

A live history discussion with three former Anoka County Sheriffs

Join ACHS to hear three former Anoka County Sheriffs tell tales of serving as the county's highest ranking law enforcement officer. In a lively panel discussion format, these three former Sheriffs are set to tell tales of car chases, catching bad guys, and battling booze—not to mention battles with county board budgets! These men led county law enforcement through the most incredible growth period in county history. When Talbot came into the office in 1960, the four county squad cars were equipped with two-way radios. When Andersohn left it in 2010, the 58 patrol deputies were using laptop computers with internet connections in their squads.

Come shoot the breeze with the Sheriffs in this one-of-a-kind event!

Saturday, January 22, 2011

2:00 p.m.

Anoka County History Center
2135 3rd Avenue N., Anoka

Ralph “Buster” Talbot, right, 1960-1986.
Bruce Andersohn, center, Sheriff 2002-2010.
Larry Podany, left, Sheriff 1995-2002.



History—Fact or Fiction? (Continued from page 4)

Context is indeed everything. Newspapers in the 1860s were highly political and prided themselves on the support they could garner for their candidate. Many newspapers put their party affiliation in their name—The *Anoka Republican* and the *Anoka Democrat* were two of the early local papers. Stories about a politician on the other side of the political fence were highly popular and truth was not necessarily required. Rumor, innuendo, and outright fiction were part of every day reporting and such is the case with this story.

The 1860 election results had only recently been announced. In Minnesota, there were 34,804 votes cast. 22,069 of them were for Lincoln—63.4% of the total Minnesota vote. Douglas got 11,920 votes (34.2%), Breckinridge got 748 votes, and Bell got only 50 votes in Minnesota. Manomin County was one of

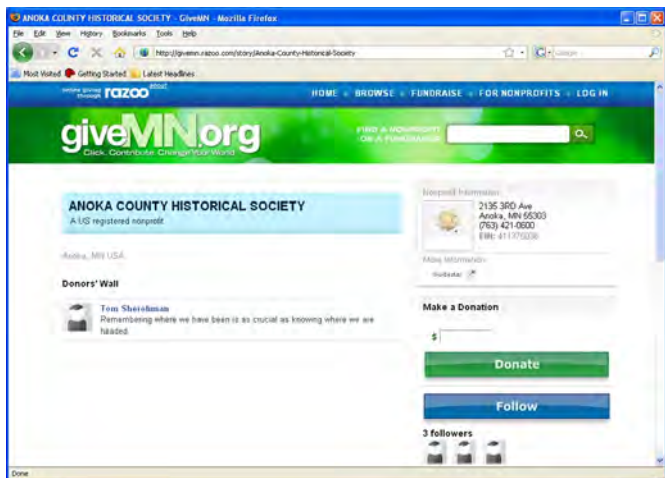
the counties Lincoln did not carry in Minnesota.

Was Manomin County really planning to secede, blockade the Mississippi, declare a monarchy, and hang abolitionists?

Not at all, but taking those political jabs at Abram Fridley made for great press and points out a fact easily overlooked: the politics of 2010 with the heavily partisan mud-slinging that can and does happen isn't new. Today, many average citizens see our current government officials as uncompromising and party-oriented, and that begs the question, have we learned anything from history? Are modern jabs at politicians in social media (and sometimes main stream media) so different from the fictional article that appeared in the 1860 *Falls Evening News*? If we answer not so different, then perhaps we might want to haul out our history books to seek a few lessons from both successful and unsuccessful ventures in the past.

Announcements and News

◆Just a reminder that the January 13 and February 10 ACHS Board of Directors meetings will be at 6:00 p.m. All are held at the History Center. Board meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome.



Did you send a Christmas letter?

If you did, we would like a copy!

All Anoka County residents who send out an annual Christmas letter are encouraged to send a copy to the Anoka County Historical Society where it will be archived for future generations to enjoy. This fun holiday collection will recall the triumphs and challenges in the lives of everyday citizens in 2010. Imagine how delighted a future researcher will be to find such a detailed document of life in Anoka County, circa 2010.

All letters will become the property of the Historical Society; therefore individuals should send their own writing and not submit the letters they have received from others unless permission is obtained from the original Anoka County author.

This letter collection is an on-going project, so add us to your card list and send one to ACHS every year.

Lexington's Ornament!



Officials from the City of Lexington presented ACHS with a one-of-a-kind ornament for the County Tree on December 7. It features Santa and Lexington's city logo, the Minuteman—who even sports a Santa hat in this fun ornament. It has been carefully cataloged into our collection and archivally stored until next year when all the ornaments will be brought out for Christmas 2011.

Greetings, Volunteers...by Elaine Koehn

On November 18, 2010, I was hired to fill the enormous vacancy that Maria King's retirement would leave. I was so very fortunate to have this month with her to learn about all of the programs she has coordinated for the past several years. I still have much to learn about the historical society and will rely on your knowledge and expertise to guide me.

Maria has worked tirelessly to acquaint me with the volunteer program and its many facets. When I feel overwhelmed, I look at Maria and say, "How do you do that again?" Her pat response is, "I am only a phone call away".

I had the pleasure of assisting Maria with the American Girl Tea featuring Kirsten, and I am already beginning to plan for the next American Girl Tea in April spotlighting Samantha. Be sure to watch for the dates. If you have helped out at teas in the past, I would love to hear your ideas.

I come to ACHS with twenty years of experience coordinating volunteers for the Metro North Adult Basic Education program, a consortium of school districts that provided basic reading, English as a Second Language, GED and High School diploma classes. Volunteers served in all areas. I have always enjoyed working with volunteers; they are the backbone of the community and the heart of every program.

I am learning that ACHS relies heavily on volunteers and the support you provide fulfills our mission of educating the community in the best way possible.

I am married and have three grown children, and two grandsons. I love to read, shop, go to the YMCA, and spend time with my family. During the summer, you will find me in my backyard swimming pool with friends and family. My winters have consisted of travel and I also enjoy downhill skiing.

I am looking forward to the upcoming year. If you have a minute, stop by or give me a call. I would love to hear from you.

Elaine Koehn
Volunteer Coordinator

A fond farewell

Since 1991, only two county board members have served as the Historical Society's liaison, Dennis Berg (right) and Dick Lang (left), both of whom are retiring in January. At the December 14th board meeting, ACHS Executive Director Todd Mahon presented each with a plaque to recognize and thank them for their faithful service to ACHS.



Contributions & New Members — Thank you

(All lists are current to December 27, 2010.)

DONATIONS

Robert Akin
Julian Andersen Family
June Anderson
LaVerne Anderson
Marian Auchter
Marlys Burman
Richard and Darlene Caswell
Jeannine Chamberlain
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Ernest & Sharon Woizeschke
Sgt. Peter Wojciechowski

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Anoka Halloween Committee
Anoka Masonic Lodge #30
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Montana
Lake George Conservation Club
Carol LeDoux
Carol Hutchinson Moen
William and Janet Nelson
Eileen Rathbun
Marilyn Giddings Sawyer
Pat Schawappach
Barb Scottston
Ned Storla
Marjorie Strause
Thurston-Lindberg Mortuary
Ron Wendel
Dave Westendorf

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Joyce Paul and R.W. Johnson
From Roger & Dorothy Carlson

In Honor of David Legrid
From Roger & Dorothy Carlson

NEW MEMBERS

Kathleen Dilcher
Marilyn Evans
Marlene & Frank Fehland
Brian & Brenda Jaye
Marne Lemke
Richard Lemke Family
Amy & Michael Michelsen
Barb Miller
Janet Nelson
Kay Neutz
Dean Olson
Eleanore Pemberton
Ralph Rooney
Lael Theis
Karl Tingelstad
Dave Westendorf
Gretchen Zell

END OF YEAR GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

Jean Chamberlain
Sue Dilcher
Carol Dordan
Lyle Elverud
Marilyn Hamm
Sam Hermanstorfer
Nancy Hoffman
Mary Jablonski
Pauline James
Al Kordiak
Jerome and Marilyn Manley
Irene Parsons
Marjorie Strouse
Kathy Tingelstad
Lori Yager
Catherine Vesley

The Anoka County Historical Society extends our sincere sympathy to the families of:

Robert (R. W.) Johnson, who passed away November 6. R.W. was a long time member and avid history supporter for ACHS as well as a friend and former volunteer.

Joyce Paul, who passed away November 13.. Joyce was a long-time ACHS member, former board member, volunteer, and friend.

Eugene Pratt, who passed away November 23. Eugene was the father of ACHS columnist and volunteer Jeanine Pratt.

Thomas J. Hilliard, who passed away November 24. Thomas was a long-standing member and supporter of ACHS.

Kenneth Ortell, who passed away December 6. Ken was a former member of ACHS.

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Coming Events

January

20 Years Since Desert Storm

(Crooked Lake Library Lobby, 11440 Crooked Lake Blvd., Coon Rapids.) A special lobby exhibit to look back and reflect on one of America's shortest wars, Desert Storm in 1991. Do you remember where you were when the bombs began falling on Baghdad?

January 15, 2:00

Quilts and Their Stories

(Northtown Library, 711 County Road 10, Blaine) Quilts can tell stories, paint pictures and bring back memories. Join us at the Library to hear the stories behind some of the quilts in the ACHS collection, history of quilting traditions, and preservation tips. This event is FREE and funded by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

January 22, 2:00

Sheriff Stories

(Anoka County History Center & Library) Join ACHS to hear three former Anoka County Sheriffs tell tales of serving as the county's highest ranking law enforcement officer. In a lively panel discussion format, these three former Sheriffs are set to tell tales of car chases, catching bad guys, and battling booze—not to mention battles with county board budgets! See page 4 for more info.

February 1

Law and Ladders Exhibit Closing

(Anoka County History Center & Library.) These are the last days to see this exhibit featuring artifacts and stories from Anoka County's sheriff, police, and fire departments. *Law and Ladders* will close forever at the end of the day on February 1, making way for a new exhibit scheduled to open in March.

February 19, 2:00

Tastes and Sounds of the Civil War

(Rum River Library, 4201 6th Avenue, Anoka) This is a hands-on approach to Minnesota's involvement in the Civil War and helps dispel some of the misconceptions they (and us) have about the war. This event is FREE and funded by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.



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Coming to a parade near you!

The Anoka County Historical Society will be coming to a parade near you this summer with the generous donation of a 1919 Model T truck. The truck was refurbished in 1989 by Duke Grosslein to be used as a parade vehicle. He offered the truck to the Anoka County Historical Society at its February 10, 2011, board meeting and the Board of Directors accepted his generous gift.

A little Grosslein Beverage History

Grosslein Beverages began with the founding of the company by Duke's father, August E. Grosslein Sr., in 1919. He began operations at the corner of East River Road and Mississippi Street in Fridley. Though it has

moved twice, the business remained in Anoka County for its entire existence until it was recently sold to Dahlheimer Beverage in Rogers.

Grosslein Beverages moved to Anoka in 1929 and operated in several buildings, including near the railroad tracks on Seventh Avenue, and different locations on Second Avenue. One building on Second Avenue held the bottling works for the locally famous Mission Orange soda pop. By 1974, the expanded company was operating out of a new building in Ramsey on Highway 10.

(continued on page 4)



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Janitorial—Sandra Thorsen

The Anoka County Historical Society is a
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Contributions to ACHS are tax-deductible
within the allowable limits of the law.

From the Director...

By Todd Mahon

ACHF has helped ACHS

In 2008, Minnesota voters passed the Legacy Act, an amendment to the state constitution that called for a statewide sales tax to provide for four funds, including the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (ACHF). During the 2009 Legislative session, state leaders directed money from the ACHF to several areas including competitive statewide grants programs.

ACHS partnered with the Hennepin History Museum on a project to document the suburban development of the two counties. The project was funded for just over \$20,000 through a partnership pool in the ACHF. Work is continuing as we publish this edition of *History Center News*. It is scheduled to be complete by June 30 and produce an extensive report on the suburban expansion of the two counties.

The suburban development of Anoka County just may be the most important story of the county in the latter part of the twentieth century. It is something the staff at ACHS has been wanting to document in a serious manner for several years. If not for the availability of these funds, this project would not have been possible.

The legislature is currently deliberating on how to distribute the funds in the future. The Minnesota History Coalition, a partnership of regional and statewide history organizations, has put together a list of recommendations that is based on the experiences of the previous two years. They include an overall request of \$36.55 million of the total ACHS be dedicated to history projects. Within that \$36.55 million is a request that \$14 million be allocated for History Programs and Projects that are of Statewide Significance and are a State Responsibility; \$15 million for History Programs and Projects operated or conducted by or through Local, Regional and Other Historical Organizations to be distributed through a competitive grant program; and \$6 million for History Programs and Projects that are operated by partnerships of organizations in order to encourage collaboration to improve capacity and expertise.

These funds have already done a great deal to preserve the history that we all love. Please call your legislators and ask them to support history with the distribution of the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

From the President...

By Paul Pierce, III

I did not grow up listening to music on wax cylinders, though I did listen to 78 rpm records. Those were mostly hand-me-downs. The first records I chose or bought were 45s with stories accompanied by music and sound effects to support the exciting moments in the tale. My favorite was *Peter and the Wolf* with the symphony alone on one side and the symphony with storytelling over it on the other. I spent many sessions listening and wearing out those records on my little player. It was fun to have the three speeds that could completely change the mood of a 45 rpm record. As I grew up, it was music on 33rpm albums and eventually the players only had that speed, no choices. It's a good thing the album artwork was a big part of them—I wore out those records, too.

I had a multi-record changer player. It saved a lot of messing with the records when they were over, but falling down onto a moving pile of records did a lot of damage. I resisted CDs for years because I had gone to a system of buying a record and immediately recording it to a cassette tape that I wore out instead. That left the record pristine and clean for the next cassette recording that I could make after the first wore out. Eventually, CDs were all they made, and I had no choice.

Even our youngest members are aware of the changes in how we listen to music that have occurred since CDs; many of you are probably perfectly satisfied with CDs and not interested in the digital change. I have just gone through the transition to an iPod and I was able to fit ALL the albums I have onto that one new device. It is 3/8 of an inch thick, fits into my shirt pocket and contains every music album I've ever owned with space left over!

The point of this tale is that the Anoka County Historical Society is keeping all those previously normal, everyday life items. They will be available for students of history to examine and appreciate differences. Most of us already can no longer imagine having to find a pay phone if you wanted to make a call, or only receiving calls when at home.

Things are changing so fast and even though we all lived that way then, it is hard to imagine doing so now. Our museum offers all of us the opportunity to view our ancestors lives in the 1900s and before. It will also preserve insights into our lives for future generations. ACHS does a great deal with a small budget. We can all be proud and sure that our organization is secure and capable of doing that job far into the future.

This is my last President's Column. It has been an honor to serve as your president.

Celebrating Women in History Month ...by Vickie Wendel

Loni Payne grew up in Lino Lakes with lots of cars around her all the time since her father was a mechanic. It probably sparked her interested in cars, especially fast cars, and Loni began racing at the old Twin City Speedway in Blaine at the age of 17. Her first car was a 1961 Impala and no, she never crashed a car!

After graduating from Centennial High School, Loni began working as a secretary and when the company moved part of its operations to California, she went with them. Still, in the back of her mind, Loni knew the secretarial work she was doing was not what she really wanted. She wanted to be in law enforcement.

It was the 1970s, and despite taking as many classes as she could to prepare for a career in law enforcement, it didn't come easy. Women were just entering that very male dominated field and Loni's first application to a police force was unsuccessful. She persisted and finally beat out her male competition in the Civil Service exam and was hired by city of Hercules, California. She graduated sixth in her class at the Police Academy—third in defensive tactics—and began working as a patrol officer.

After three and a half years, Loni, then married, and her husband wanted to start a family and wanted to do that in Minnesota. Her husband transferred to a job in Minneapolis and Loni began working as the Northtown Mall security officer until their daughter was born.

In 1985, there were no female licensed officers in the Anoka County Sheriff's Office. The women were all in what were classed as civilian jobs. Loni was hired as the Sexual Assault Investigator, a civilian position with the promise that she would move to a deputy position within a year. It was designed to be a position for a woman and deal with child victims.

Though mostly unspoken, there was resistance to a woman deputy and the promised promotion did not come until Loni and another woman in the office brought a lawsuit against the county. Loni was supervising men and assigning cases to them but getting only half the pay of those male deputies with no chance for advancement.

The county settled out of court and Loni was made a deputy in 1988. In 1996, Loni became the Lieutenant of Training. Here, she started the Reserves Academy to

Cognitive Graph Interview Process. The process is a way of thinking and interviewing a child to get the most credible competence out of the child to build a case that will stand up in court. The real goal is a case so well founded that a child never needs to testify.

The training is extensive with weeks of training for officers. Teaching this technique is something Loni excelled at. She has been invited to train officers in other departments all across the U.S. and even in Korea and Turkey. She admits these countries are behind the U.S. in how they view sex cases, but by seeking out training for their officers from professionals like Loni, they are making progress.

Training was not the only role Loni filled in the Sheriff's Office. In 1997, she attended the FBI National Academy, and in 1998 became a lieutenant in the Patrol Division. A year later, she was promoted to Captain of Justice Services, and in 2000, transferred to the Criminal Investigation Division. Loni was appointed one of two undersheriffs serving with Sheriff Bruce Andersohn in 2003. When the other undersheriff retired, Loni was named Chief Deputy.

During her time in the Anoka County Sheriff's Office, Loni has worked for five different sheriffs. Sheriff Ralph "Buster" Talbot first hired her, then Ken Wilkinson was elected in 1986. He was defeated by Larry Podany in 1994, and Loni worked for Podany until he resigned from the office in 2002 and Bruce Andersohn was appointed. Andersohn was the sheriff to appoint Loni Chief Deputy and she continued to work for him until he chose not to run for reelection in 2010. Sheriff James Stuart took office two months before Loni retired in February of 2011, making him the fifth sheriff Loni worked for.

Though leadership styles differed, the most important lessons stayed the same for Loni. Those lessons included realizing that she couldn't fix everything and that hard work was a given. The most important lesson?

"Never lose your integrity," was her immediate answer.

Loni's career is the focus of the *Women in History* exhibit in the History Center lobby for March and features her uniform, badge, photos, and even the dolls she used when she began interviewing child victims. Stop by to learn more about the career of this remarkable woman in Anoka County History.



Loni and Buster Talbot, the sheriff who hired her in 1985 at the *Sheriff Stories* event in January.

provide training to the volunteers in the Sheriff's Office, but that was not to be her most significant achievement in training. Loni worked with Ann Ahlquist of Plymouth to perfect the Forensic

(continued from page 1)



The first home of Grosslein Beverages at Mississippi Street and East River Road in Fridley.

In its early days, the company distributed and manufactured carbonated soft drinks. Many of those drinks are fondly remembered by local folks, including Mission Orange and Lem-N-Lime.

After the repeal of prohibition in 1929, the company added beer distribution to its list of services. Among the first beers it distributed were Schmidt's, Hamm's, Fitger's, Regal Supreme, Kato, and Yoerg's. Beer distribution would be the future of the company as they phased out the soft drink production and distribution by 1969 when they sold off sales, inventory, and equipment to 7-Up Bottling in Minneapolis.

Over the years, many members of the Grosslein family were involved in the business; Duke and his brother,

Bob, were active for years. After Bob retired in 1976, Duke's wife, LaVerne, his son, Dana, and daughter, Nancy, and her husband, Tom Blaska, all became involved. The company was long involved in community activities, including parades.



Duke Grosslein with the Mission Orange delivery truck, 1950.

In 1989, they purchased and refurbished the truck that was recently donated to ACHS. August Sr. owned a similar 1919 truck in the earliest days of the business. The truck will not be a part of ACHS's object collection, but that allows us to use it in parades and at community events to promote ACHS and its mission.

As we work to secure year-round storage for the vehicle and finalize insurance needs, we are looking for volunteers and friends to help bring the truck to local parades and events. We're looking for people with heavy-duty vehicles to pull the truck on its trailer from its storage location to parades.

We also need people willing to drive the vehicle in parades. If you are interested in

participating, please call Elaine Koehn, ACHS's Volunteer Coordinator, at 763-421-0600.

We hope you will join us in thanking Duke and LaVerne Grosslein for this generous gift. And we hope to see you at a local parade soon!



August "Duke" Grosslein Jr., August Grosslein Sr., and Bob Grosslein.



BROTHER OF MINE

*The CIVIL WAR LETTERS of
THOMAS & WILLIAM CHRISTIE*



Civil War History

at the

Anoka County Historical Society's Annual Meeting

Sunday, **March 20**, 2:00pm
Bunker Hills Activity Center

Join the Anoka County Historical Society for its annual meeting to learn more about Minnesota and Anoka County in the Civil War. Hampton Smith, editor of the *Brother of Mine*, a collection of letters between Thomas and William Christie, will speak about the Christies and their experiences in the war. There will also be a traveling exhibit on-hand that focuses on Anoka County veterans of the war between the states. Come commemorate the 150th anniversary of the outbreak of the America's Civil War. The event will be preceded by a brief business meeting that will include the results of the 2011 elections to the ACHS Board of Directors. Refreshments will be served.

Cost: \$5.00 for ACHS members and \$7.00 for non-members.

More information: www.ac-hs.org (763) 421-0600.



Up To Date

Announcements and News

◆Just a reminder that the March 10 and April 14 ACHS Board of Directors meetings will be at 6:00 p.m. All are held at the History Center. Board meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome.

Look For Ballots in the Mail

Anoka County Historical Society members should be on the lookout for ballots in the mail for the upcoming board of directors election. The two seats representing Anoka County Commissioner Districts two and three are up for election, as are three at-large seats. There is also an election for the vice president of the board. According to the ACHS by-laws, the vice president is elected by the membership every two years. After the end of that two year term, they automatically become the president of the board. In 2009, Tom Sherohman was elected vice president and will become the president after the March 20 annual meeting.

Ballots will be sent to active members in the mail. All ballots must be received at the history center no later than Monday, March 14, at 5:00 p.m. Any ballot arriving after said time will not be counted. The election results will be announced at the Annual Meeting on March 20, 2011.

Welcome, Caitlin! *By Caitlin Frey*

Hello to all ACHS members and volunteers! I recently started as the new Office Administrator here at the Anoka County History Center, filling the position that Pat Snodgrass left when she retired in November.

I come to ACHS with a background in the non-profit and public history fields. I graduated with a BA in history from Macalester College in 2004 and have a Master's in Public History from Loyola University of Chicago. I have worked in a wide range of organizations, including the fundraising offices of the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis and Lakeview Foundation in Stillwater. I have also been fortunate to intern or work at the Minnesota Historical Society (Exhibit Department); Murphy's Landing; the Archdiocese of Chicago's Archives; and the Minnesota Transportation Museum.

Aside from my love of history and museums, I also enjoy travelling to new places, playing softball and catching up on my reading. I was married last July (in a hail storm!) and live in Saint Paul with my husband, Dan.

I already enjoy working with the great staff here at ACHS, and I look forward to getting to know all of you. When you have a chance, stop in to say "hi" and see our new *Pieced and Patched* exhibit, opening March 8. This quilt exhibit will be open for about a year.

Greetings, Volunteers! *by Elaine Koehn*

Spring is just around the corner, and considering all the snow and cold this winter, it is a welcome sight! As the weather warms and the snow starts to melt, We are eagerly preparing for three very important events scheduled in April and May: Volunteer Appreciation, Ghost Tour Docent training, and the Annual Spring Tea.

April 10th through April 16th is National Volunteer Appreciation Week. We will honor our volunteers at the History Center, on **Sunday April 10 at 2:00 p.m.** Your contributions are many, and we look forward to this special time of the year when we can express our gratitude for all that you do. Be sure to watch for your invitation and mark your calendars for this fun event.

Secondly, we are recruiting new docents for this summer and fall. Since I am new and have never been on a ghost tour, it is imperative that I learn all I can about this important area. Experienced ghost tour docents are crucial in the planning process for the annual training. The training is scheduled on **Saturday, April 30th from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**, followed by an actual tour for new docents. Tours will begin the first Thursday and Saturday of June at 7:30 p.m. until the rush in October when they will be scheduled as needed. If you have considered volunteering in this area, please give me a call and we will learn together. If you are experienced, please come and share your wisdom.

Finally, the Anoka County Historical Society will host the Annual Spring Tea. Mothers, aunts, grandmothers, and friends come together to share their childhood memories with a significant little girl in their life. And, of course, bring a favorite doll! The tea will explore the era at the dawn of the 20th century, through the eyes of a 10-year-old girl in 1904. A quick etiquette lesson, followed by girls and guests creating a lavish spring hat adorned with feathers, flowers, and ribbons. Girls then help set the table for tea before joining the grown-up ladies for an assortment of tasty treats. Teas will be **Thursday, May 5 and 12 at 6:30 p.m., and Saturday, May 7 and 14 at 10:00 and 2:00 p.m.** More teas may be added as necessary.

I look forward to working with experienced volunteers who have been involved in these events, and meeting new volunteers who want to try their hand at these fun events for the first time. Spring is a new beginning and opportunities for volunteers at ACHS abound. Thank you for your commitment to ACHS, and have a HAPPY SPRING!



Contributions & New Members — Thank you

(All lists are current to February 22, 2011.)

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In Memory of Gretchen Dunn

From Dorothy Carlson

In Honor of Loni Payne

From Vickie Wendel

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Vickie Wendel

NEW MEMBERS

Sharon L. Johnson
Elaine & Jerry Koehn
Loni Payne
Bill & Toni Talbot
Rosalie True
Richard & Valerie Wallrich
Barbara and Ivan Wold

***The Anoka County
Historical Society extends
our sincere sympathy to
the families of:***

Roger Carlson, who passed away November 30, 2010. Roger was a long-time ACHS member, devoted event attendee, former volunteer, and friend.

Gretchen Dunn, who passed away January 29, 2011. Gretchen was a life member of ACHS, history supporter, former volunteer, and friend.

Pieced & Patched

**Quilts from the collection of the
Anoka County Historical Society**

**Opening Night
Tuesday, March 8, 2011
7:00 p.m.**

View crazy quilts, signature quilts, utility quilts, art quilts, and quilts with history from the mid-1800s to today. The exhibit is free on opening night and everyone is welcome!

Anoka County Historical Society
2135 Third Avenue North
Anoka, MN 55303
(763) 421-0600

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Coming Events

March

(Anoka County History Center) A special lobby exhibit featuring the career of Loni Payne, the highest ranking female law enforcement officer in the county, Chief Deputy in the Sheriff's Office. She has taught investigation techniques to officers all over the world and just recently retired. See page 3 for more and stop by the lobby to view some special artifacts from Ms. Payne's career.

March 8

(Anoka County History Center) Explore history through the fantastic quilts in the ACHS collection, one dating to about 1830! Other newer quilts tell of young lovers, a little girls, parting gifts, welcome gifts, and more. These quilts will only be on display for about one year before they are tucked safely away for preservation.

March 12, 10:30—1:30

(Rum River Library, 4201 6th Avenue, Anoka) Civil War reenactors will set up a winter camp and share with visitors how soldiers from Anoka County spent their winter days in camp. A special traveling exhibit from ACHS featuring Anoka County soldiers is part of this event. This event is FREE and funded by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

March 20, 1:00

(Bunker Hills Activity Center, Andover) Hampton Smith, editor of the *Brother of Mine*, a collection of letters between Thomas and William Christie, will speak about the Christies and their experiences in the war, an exhibit of Civil War soldiers and artifacts, and more. See page 5 for details.

March 26, 2:00

(Northtown Library, 4711 County Road 10, Blaine) Anoka County was formed in preparation for statehood in 1857. The county as wild with a population of less than 2,000, but we were determined to make our mark. The everyday people who pioneered this county are brought to life through pictures and stories. This event is FREE and funded by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

April 10, 2:00

(Anoka County History Center & Library) Your contributions are many, and we look forward to this special time when we can express our gratitude for all that you do! Watch for your invitation by mail, but if we miss you and you volunteered in 2010, come!

April 30, 10:00—1:00

(Anoka County History Center & Library.) We'll provide training for new guides as well as refreshers and tips for experienced guides, then take a ghost tour! If you've enjoyed the tour, think how much fun leading one can be! Sign up with Elaine, 763-421-0600.

Women in History Month

Pieced and Patched—Quilts from the Collection of ACHS

Civil War Winter Camp

ACHS Annual Meeting

The History of Anoka County

Volunteer Appreciation Day

Ghost Tour Docent Training



History Center News

Newsletter of the Anoka County Historical Society

Vol. 41 No. 3

May — June 2011

SERVING:

- Andover
- Anoka
- Bethel
- Blaine
- Centerville
- Circle Pines
- Columbia Heights
- Columbus
- Coon Rapids
- East Bethel
- Fridley
- Ham Lake
- Hilltop
- Lexington
- Lino Lakes
- Linwood
- Nowthen
- Oak Grove
- Ramsey
- St. Francis
- Spring Lake Park

When Keeping History is Personal...by Vickie Wendel

Every organization has a history and who keeps that history makes a great deal of impact on how much is known about that organization. St. John's Lutheran Church in Nowthen has a rich recorded history, filled with details, stories, and photos, thanks in large part to one of its members, Lou Paulson. While there were always more people involved on committees and groups to keep the history, Lou was at the heart of the efforts. Most of the information in this article is drawn from the results of Lou's research.

It all began with as a mission outreach with a traveling Missouri Synod Lutheran pastor assigned to serve the German families scattered around Minnesota in 1873. Pastor Henry Vetter was the traveling missionary who first preached to people in the Burns area, but his territory stretched all the way to St. Cloud, so he was only infrequently available. Two years later, a new traveling missionary was assigned to the Elk River territory and Reverend Karl Mende began preaching to people in Burns. With assistance from a pastor in Maple Grove, ten families were organized into St. John's Lutheran Church in November of 1876.

Pastor Mende preached in the homes of his charter members--the membership was 44 people including children--until 1878 when their first church building was complete. It was 28 feet long, 18 feet wide, and cost \$400 to build. The building carried a mortgage until 1889.

Mende left the area not long after the building was dedicated and Reverend John Fackler came to shepherd the little flock of Lutherans. The congregation paid him \$40 a year and member families had to pay a share of his wage--\$5 each. Regular services were held at St. John's, but Rev. Fackler was only there two Sundays a month since he served more than one church. When the pastor was not there, parishioners held a "reading service" where Herman Middelstadt read scripture until 1890, then Kaspar Werner took over as the "Vorleser" (German word for "reader.") They had no organ, so they appointed a member with a strong singing voice to lead the hymns. An addition to the church grounds came during Fackler's time when two acres were set aside to be used for the cemetery.

The next addition came with the building of the

parsonage in 1888 and a new pastor and his bride moved into it. Pastor Albert Trapp was not only the pastor for St. John's, but was the teacher for the first session of the St. John's Lutheran School. He taught grades one through eight, and served as pastor for St. John's, a congregation at Bradford in Isanti County, and filled in for several other churches in southern Isanti County. The travel between his parishes and the winter weather were blamed for Trapp's illness and he took a leave to recover his health. Instead, Trapp died at the age of 25. He was buried in St. John's cemetery on July 14, 1890. Two days after his funeral, his wife gave birth to twins.

The congregation was growing and in January of 1892, they voted to build a new and bigger church building. The members pledged \$810 for the building. Andrew Keen, a member, was instructed to build the church as inexpensively as possible and any member who could help build was encouraged to do so.

Continued on page 5

The church in 1892.



History Center News is published by the Anoka County Historical Society six times yearly as a member benefit.

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Tuesday 10-8

Wednesday-Friday 10-5

Saturday 10-4

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The Anoka County Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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From the Director...

By Todd Mahon

Anoka County's Community Historians

Anoka County and Nowthen lost a lot when Lou Paulson passed away on March 31, 2011. Lou was a good friend to me personally, but, more important, she was a good friend to the history of her community. Lou was born in 1920 and lived her entire life in Burns Township and Nowthen. For over twenty years, she was the Anoka County Fair's Superintendant in the Arts and Crafts Department.

Perhaps Lou's greatest contribution to Nowthen's history was her 1997 book, *Nowthen Then and Now*. Published by DeForest Press, the book has dozens of wonderful photographs of Burns and Nowthen and shares great stories about how Nowthen was given its name, family histories of some of the earliest residents of Burns Township, and so much more. The book was recently republished in 2007.

Community historians like Lou are special partners in the Anoka County Historical Society's mission to preserve and share Anoka County's history. Large portions of our collections are built on the foundations laid down by people like her. A few years ago, Anoka lost one its most prominent community historians when Charlie Sell passed away. I think of other contributors that are still with us like Irene Parsons in Columbia Heights and Mary Capra in Centerville. Each of these people have provided ACHS with terrific publications and documents about their communities.

The best way we can remember Lou and honor her memory is to continue her lifelong passion to document and share. Who will take up her mantle in Nowthen? The staff at the Historical Society is relatively small, with one full-time person and a handful of part-time people. If left to the staff alone, we wouldn't have the ability to collect as much history as we do. So who will help to document today's history? Who will write the stories of Anoka County's cities, townships, and neighborhoods so that they can be shared?

Many of you are rightfully proud of your hometowns and the people they have produced. That was Lou, too. She was proud of Nowthen and she took it upon herself to not only write her own story, but the stories of those around her. So take a look around your community and start writing its history. Nothing would make Lou happier.

From the President...

By Tom Scheroman

History is all around us

While flipping through the pages of the latest Fridley Community Education catalog—looking for ways to improve my mind—I came across a full page ad for the Fridley Community Theatre's production of Cole Porter's *"Anything Goes."* This instantly sent my memory whooshing back to the early 1960s when another community theater in Fridley was home to my earliest thespian pursuits.

I speak of the Fridley Footlighters, who were founded in 1959 by the Fridley Women's Club under the name the Fridley Little Theater Group. Soon after, the group was renamed the Fridley Footlighters and incorporated as a non-profit organization.

After a slow start, the Footlighters theater group was very successful for eight seasons. Three plays were offered in a typical season: one at Thanksgiving, a children's play at mid-winter, and a comedy in the Spring. The Fall and Spring shows were staged at the Columbia Heights High School Theatre and the children's show at a Fridley grade school.

I was first involved with the Footlighters in 1965 as an actor in *Mary, Mary*, a comedy by Jean Kerr. The play had recently been adapted into a film in 1963. Later that year, I made my directorial debut with *The Emperor's New Clothes*, by Charlotte Chorpenning. By 1975, I was a full time director at Dudley Riggs Experimental Theater Company on the West Bank of the University of Minnesota, and The Footlighters' Board of Directors invited me to direct *Arsenic and Old Lace*, which I believe was the Footlighters' Swan Song. The group's demise came not because the productions lacked quality – in fact, *Arsenic and Old Lace* was a hit, as were most of the Footlighters' shows. The end came mostly from burnout and exhaustion of the small, loyal band of volunteers who worked on show after show.

I wonder if any of my old Footlighter friends have aligned themselves with the Fridley Community Theatre? When I attend *"Anything Goes"* (July 29 and 30, at 7pm. August 5, and 6, at 7pm, and August 7, at 3pm at the Fridley District Auditorium), I will search the program for familiar names from the past, hoping to re-ignite a few more memories.

Memories, after all, are our own personal storehouse of history. Think about your memories and take the next step to be certain those places, people and things you remember are recorded somewhere permanent—like your County Historical Society.

The Story of an Artifact ...by Vickie Wendel

A screaming siren is designed to get your attention, to warn of something happening where individuals need to do something to keep themselves safe.

The first system of warning sirens was developed during WWII in England, but sirens were quickly established in the United States to warn people of air raids, especially after Pearl Harbor was bombed in 1941.

Airplanes and long range missiles could bring war almost anywhere on the planet by the 1950s, and there were soon more than enough long-range weapons to spread fear across the globe. The struggle between countries supporting either democratic and communist ideologies was called the “Cold War” as each side struggled to fill the power vacuum brought on at the end of WWII. The Korean War was the first major armed clash between democratic and communist forces. By the end of the 1950s, the super powers of the Soviet Union and the United States were in an arms race that included atomic weapons. How to educate and protect U.S. citizens if atomic weapons were used became the job of the Department of Civil Defense.

A Civil Defense Authority was established in counties across America and it was the job of these agencies to educate the general population on how to stay safe if there was an attack. County Civil Defense directors taught first aid classes, gave talks on how to build your own bomb shelter, what foods to stock in a shelter, how to identify enemy aircraft and what to do when one was sighted. They handed out pamphlets and booklets with instructions and lists, trying to both prepare and reassure the public that an attack was something they could survive—even a nuclear attack. Songs and games taught children the basics of “duck and cover.” Schools held drills.

The Civil Defense System was well established by the 1960s with official “fallout shelters” in the county. Fallout shelters were intended to protect the public from the dangers of a nuclear attack,



This is one of the water barrels that was stored in the shelter at the Anoka State Hospital.

the greatest fear of the Cold War. Each shelter was stocked with nonperishable food and water. In the event of an attack, the sirens would sound and citizens were to quickly proceed to the nearest shelter marked by yellow signs to wait for the all clear signal.

An *Anoka Union* article in September of 1965 gave the number of shelter spaces then available in the county:

Anoka	
<i>Anoka County Court House</i>	66 Spaces
<i>Anoka Junior High School</i>	274 Spaces
<i>Anoka Senior High School</i>	388 Spaces
<i>1st Methodist Church</i>	75 Spaces
<i>Franklin School</i>	84 Spaces
<i>Lincoln School</i>	216 Spaces
<i>St. Stephens School</i>	254 Spaces
<i>U.S. Post Office</i>	55 Spaces
<i>Anoka State Hospital</i>	2592 Spaces
Coon Rapids	
<i>Junior High School</i>	440 Spaces
<i>1st State Bank</i>	82 Spaces
Lino Lakes	
<i>General Building</i>	4510 Spaces



This sign was on the Anoka Junior High (Sandburg Middle School.)

WARNING!! As you will notice, there is not enough space for everyone in Anoka County in our community shelters. It is necessary that each and every one of us develop our own family shelters to insure the safety of our own families. The shelters must be where the people are.

Local civil defense people are awaiting additional federal programs to promote shelters for the balance of the citizens of Anoka County.

The initial reason for installing the Civil Defense sirens was to warn of an atomic attack, but a secondary purpose began to emerge with advances in weather radars and severe storm forecasting. The sirens could blast two different tones to warn of different threats. A single steady tone warned of tornados and a varying pitched, warbling wail warned of an air raid. If anyone needed proof of the value of warning sirens, it came in 1965 when the Civil Defense sirens were used to warn residents of the tornados tearing through the southern part of Anoka County. It was the first time Civil Defense sirens were sounded in Minnesota to warn of storms. While only those in Columbia Heights and one in Fridley sounded, they, and weather broadcasts on the radio, were credited with saving lives.

By 1990, the Cold War was a thing of the past. The Soviet Union and its communist ideology had fallen and the idea of shelters for people to hide in during a nuclear attack were forgotten—almost laughable in hindsight. The fears were forgotten and the preparations of Civil Defense training shifted to an entirely new focus—natural disasters.

The county siren system was already in place and it continued to expand, but this time, the main purpose was to warn of severe storms instead of bombs.

Today when the 100+ sirens in Anoka County sound, residents still look to the sky and take cover, but they no longer fear a human enemy. The system of sirens, first established to keep citizens safe in the 1940s and 50s, continued to warn and protect.

The evidence of the effectiveness of sirens comes in statistics: since the sirens have warned of storms, the number of storm related deaths has decreased dramatically. The sirens are still doing the job for which they were first developed—to get our attention and warn us and that we need to take action to stay safe.

The water barrel, fallout sign and other artifacts are on display in the Tell Me a Story exhibit.



Dolly, Mom and Me Spring Tea

Girls are invited to bring their dollies (and moms, grandmas, aunts, friends) to the Anoka County Historical Society for a spring tea to learn about life in Anoka around 1900. Could you ride the train to Minneapolis or turn on the light switch in Anoka? What did they wear? Join the fun to find out!

May 5 & 12

These are evening teas, starting at 6:30

and running to about 9:00 pm.

May 7 & 14

Saturday tea parties are scheduled one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

Advance reservations are required. Please call 763-421-0600 to make your reservations with your Visa or MasterCard, or stop by the History Center in person.

Linwood Cemetery Tour

Explore the stories of those who reside in Linwood Cemetery at a special tour of this lovely country cemetery. This tour is an evening filled with stories, traditions, characters, history, and symbolism. Special attention will be given to the graves of Linwood firefighters and veterans.

The cemetery is located on Typo Creek Drive (County Road 85) between 232 and 233 Avenues.

Thursday, May 19, 6:30 pm

Tickets are \$7.00

Tickets are limited & must be purchased in advance before Monday, May 16.

Get your tickets at the Linwood Senior Center
22817 Typo Creek Drive or by calling 651-462-5565

The tour begins at 6:30 p.m. and will go on rain or shine, so please dress for the weather. Be prepared for walking in low light and standing as we visit graves and hear the stories they have to tell.

The tour will last about an hour.

(In the event of severe weather, the tour will meet at the Linwood Senior Center.)

This event is in partnership with the Anoka County Historical Society.

St. John's Lutheran (Continued from page 1)

By April, the members passed a resolution that said any member who did not help work on the new church building had to give \$50 instead of their services. The old church building was moved about 400 feet west and was used as the St. John's School for more than 50 years.

Officially, it was not until 1894 that St. John's became part of the Missouri Synod, having been served as a mission congregation by synod pastors until that time. Their pipe organ was bought in 1908; they established their "school board" in 1910, and built a new parsonage in 1911. The Ladies Aid Society was established in 1915; they wrote their first congregational budget and completely remodeled the church building in 1930. A new school was completed in 1949 with members doing much of the labor to build it themselves. A milestone was reached in 1950 when services stopped being preached in German and an English language constitution for governing the congregation was established.

In 1962, a building fund was created to meet the needs of the growing congregation. Their goals were met and they held the first services in the next new building in June of 1971. The farewell service held in the old 1892 building was the last one held there. It lasted only 15 minutes before the worshipers processed to the new building for the first of three services of welcome in the new church

building. More the 1,200 people attended those services and the celebration dinner.

The church and school continued to grow with the area and by 1976, 83 students attended St. John's School, a school that offered classes for kindergarten through eighth grade, hot lunches, and a full band program. Both the church and the school continue to be active in the community today.

Lou Paulson was baptized into St. John's Lutheran Church as a child, was confirmed there and continued her membership for all of her 90 years. Her funeral was held there on April 9, 2011, and she now rests beside her husband in St. John's Cemetery, close enough to hear the organ play on Sunday mornings.

Lou was also famous for her dried arrangements of what most people called weeds. She was a regular at the Farmers Market and many people have her artistry in their homes.



Gravestone Preservation Workshop **Saturday, May 7, 10-Noon**

Caring for the graves of departed family members is a tradition for many people, especially around Memorial Day. ACHS would like to help with a Gravestone Preservation Workshop. The workshop will teach participants how to judge whether a gravestone is stable enough to clean, how to clean it, and tips on photographing grave markers. The types of material grave markers are made from will be discussed—have you ever heard of "white bronze" for markers? Examples of some common materials used for markers will be pointed out.

If time permits, the workshop will include some history of Linwood Cemetery, burial traditions and new ideas for remembering loved ones.

Join staff from the Anoka County Historical Society for a lively discussion of stone, stone work, and preservation in the oldest part of Linwood Cemetery.

The cemetery is located on Typo Creek Drive (County Road 85) between 232 and 233 Avenues.

Saturday, May 7, 10-Noon

Tickets are \$5.00 (members) \$7.00 (non members)

Tickets are limited and must be purchased in advance Before Monday May 2.

Get your tickets at the Linwood Senior Center
22817 Typo Creek Drive or by calling 651-462-5565



Announcements and News

◆Just a reminder that the May 12 and June 9 ACHS Board of Directors meetings will be at 6:00 p.m. All are held at the History Center. Board meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome.

Greetings Volunteers! *By Elaine Koehn*

More than 30 volunteers attended the annual Volunteer Appreciation Event. For those not able to attend, Todd welcomed everyone, and highlights from the past year were shared. One of the presentations included a Proclamation honoring our volunteers from Governor Mark Dayton and Secretary of State Mark Ritchie. We'll be framing it to hang at the History Center for all to see. Volunteers drew for two \$25.00 gift certificates donated by Home Depot of Coon Rapids and two other smaller gifts donated for the event. Everyone received a token of our appreciation in the form of gladiola bulbs to illustrate our appreciation for your contribution and efforts in helping us grow.

Marilyn Anderson prepared a Power Point presentation, capturing pictures of volunteers working in various areas of the volunteer program. It was especially fun for me to see the volunteers that I know, but also, the ones that I had yet to meet.

We enjoyed a delightful skit with Announcer Todd Mahon that starred Board President Tom Sherohman as George Burns and Volunteer Darlene Bearl as Gracie Allen. We also had a visiting guest, Linda Monroe from Lyric Arts Theatre, singing your praises.

As we approach the summer, there will be many volunteer opportunities. Spring Teas are coming, and Ghost tours will begin the first and third Thursday and Saturday in May. Ghost tours will then continue throughout the summer gearing us up for the October rush. **We are looking for donations of gloves, shawls, and lace handkerchiefs for the girls to use during the tea. If you have any of these items that you no longer want, we would love to have them.**

In addition, it is never too early to begin thinking about the Anoka County Fair, the Home and Garden tours and the busy schedule of parades and community events. To join the fun of these events, please give me a call or email me. I will also be calling those who have volunteered in these areas in the past to see if you can help us out again this year.

Finally, I would like to welcome new volunteers who have joined our History Center volunteers staff: Dianne Pederson, Sara Given, Leanna Longley, Leslie Plummer, Gwen Reiter, Erik Svobode, and Maria King. Yes, Maria is back from Texas and will be joining us as a volunteer!

I'm confident you will all have rewarding experiences with the History Center this summer and I look forward to working with all of you!

Thank you, Volunteers!

Our ACHS volunteers are the best! In 2010, 82 people donated a total of 4,252 hours!! That is a substantial increase from 2009 and we are so very grateful for every one of those people and the hours they have given us.

Additionally, we KNOW there are many, many more hours that were not included in that total because they were not recorded on the calendar. We are just as thankful for those hours, too, even without that written record.

Think about it: the number of recorded hours given to ACHS in 2010 is equal to *more than two full time employees* working to preserve history! This is an incredible gift of time and energy that helps ACHS accomplish its mission of gathering, preserving and sharing Anoka County's history. We could not do it without you—our loyal volunteers.

Contributions & New Members — Thank you

(All lists are current to April 19, 2011.)

DONATIONS

American Legion Post 102 Auxiliary
Tim & Yvonne Curran
Fifth Avenue Dental
Eloise Graham
Patti Kurak
Linwood Township
John & Lillian Meyer
Dianne C. Pederson
Pamela Reeves
William & Liane Rock
Darryl & Diane Sannes
William and Geraldine Schulz
Bjorn Skogquist
Marjorie Soderquist Strouse
Rodger Sundstrom
Richard Theisen
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 470

ARTIFACT DONORS

Heather Caron
Norma Chounard
Columbia Heights Police Department
Roy Downs
Chuck Drury
Katherine Elliot
Jill Hanson
Don Johnson
Susan Ketel
Cindy Kravik
MaryBeth Kinsek
Matt Look
Susan McLaughlin
Al Pearson
Philolectian Society
Tom Sherohman
Dennis Ward
Westwood Elementary School
Sharon Woizeschke

NEW MEMBERS

Caitlin Frey — St. Paul
Orville Lindquist — Blaine
Kristine & Eileen Roades — Anoka
William & Liane Rock — Anoka

EMPLOYEE MATCH

Ameriprise Financial – Dan Frank

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Ruth Soine

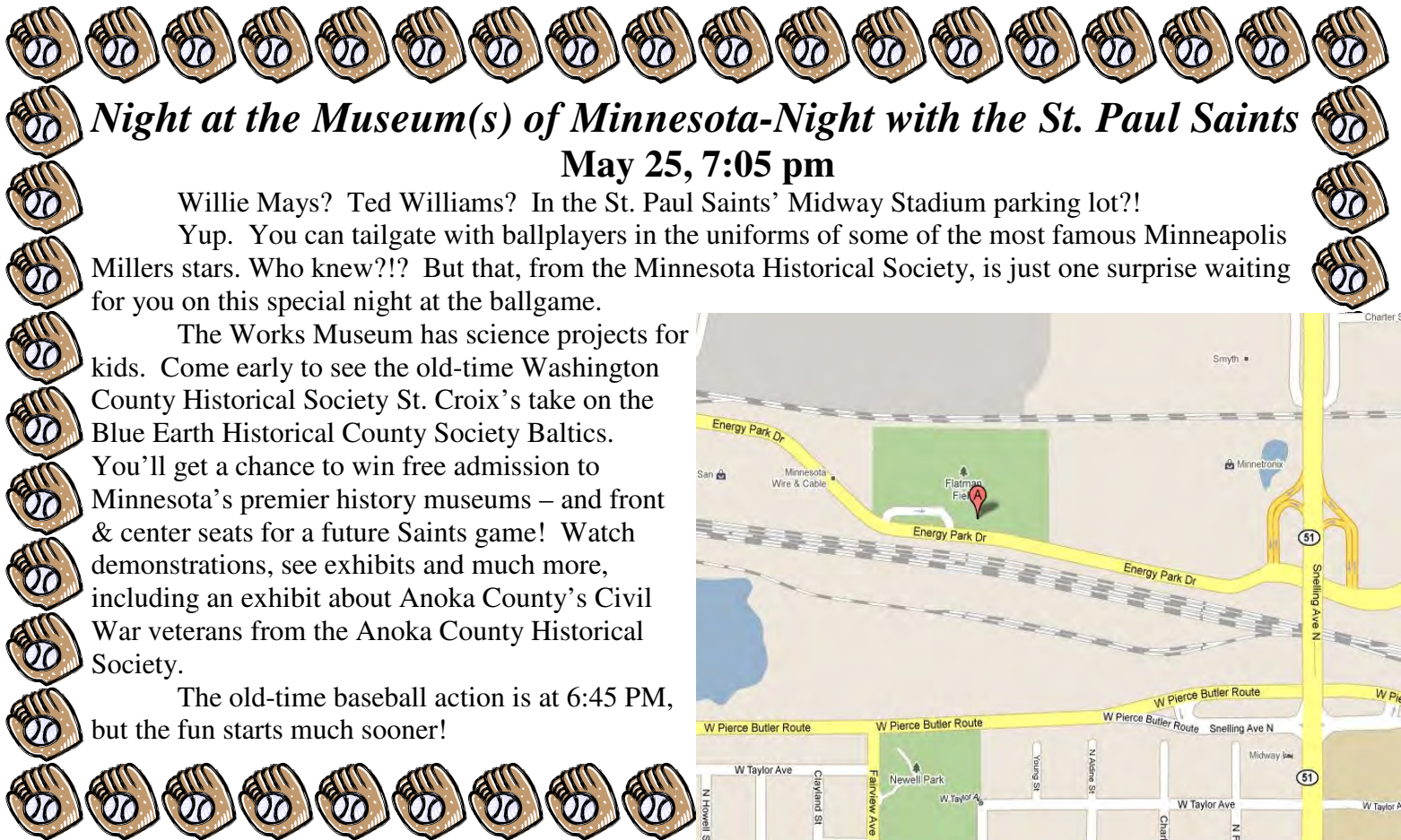
From Dottie Carlson

In Memory of Karen Dahlgren Brettschneider

From Paula Tusa and Susan Brettschneider

***The Anoka County
Historical Society extends
our sincere sympathy to
the families of:***

***Lou Paulson, who passed away March 31,
2011. Lou was a long-time ACHS member,
Nowthen historian, former volunteer, and friend.***



Night at the Museum(s) of Minnesota-Night with the St. Paul Saints

May 25, 7:05 pm

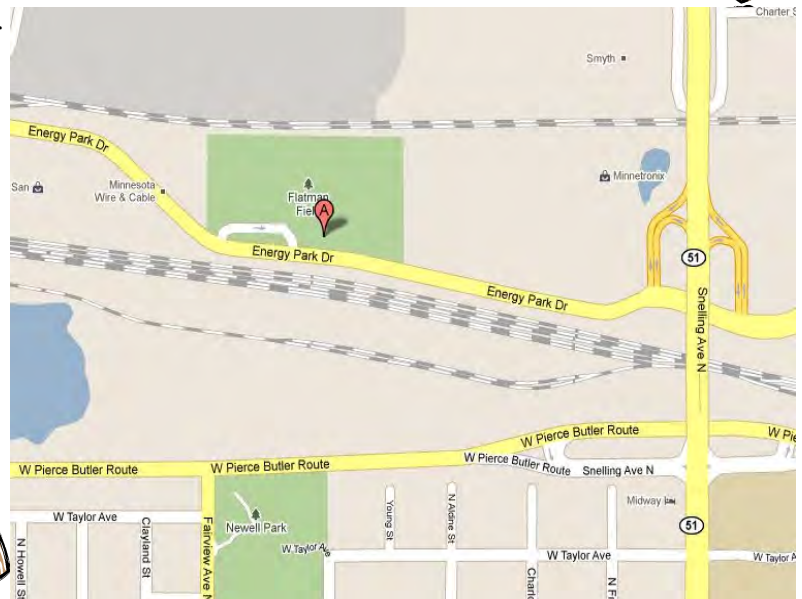
Willie Mays? Ted Williams? In the St. Paul Saints' Midway Stadium parking lot?!

Yup. You can tailgate with ballplayers in the uniforms of some of the most famous Minneapolis

Millers stars. Who knew?!? But that, from the Minnesota Historical Society, is just one surprise waiting for you on this special night at the ballgame.

The Works Museum has science projects for kids. Come early to see the old-time Washington County Historical Society St. Croix's take on the Blue Earth Historical County Society Baltics. You'll get a chance to win free admission to Minnesota's premier history museums – and front & center seats for a future Saints game! Watch demonstrations, see exhibits and much more, including an exhibit about Anoka County's Civil War veterans from the Anoka County Historical Society.

The old-time baseball action is at 6:45 PM, but the fun starts much sooner!



Anoka County Historical Society
2135 Third Avenue North
Anoka, MN 55303
(763) 421-0600

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Coming Events

May-August

(Anoka County History Center) This lobby exhibit tells the story of tornadoes in Anoka County. Highlighting the Anoka tornado of 1939 and the Fridley tornado of 1965, it also explores the long-term impact that these and other storms have had on the county. Stop by the lobby to view photographs, film footage, and artifacts from these storms.

Weathering the Storm: Tornadoes in Anoka County

May 7, 10-noon

(Typo Creek Drive (County Road 85) between 232 and 233 Avenues) Learn some of the best accepted practices for cleaning and taking care of gravestones including how best to get that funny moss stuff off without harming the stone. See page 5 for more.

Gravestone Preservation Workshop—Linwood Cemetery

May 19, 6:30 pm

(Typo Creek Drive (County Road 85) between 232 and 233 Avenues.) This special tour will highlight Linwood veterans and firefighters who now rest in the Linwood Cemetery, as well as sharing stories of other notable Linwood residents. See page 4 for more.

Linwood Cemetery Tour

May 5 & 12 6:30-9; May 7 & 14, 10-4

(Anoka County History Center) Girls are invited to bring their dollies (and moms) to a spring tea to learn about life in Anoka around 1900. Could you ride the train to Minneapolis or turn on the light switch in Anoka? What did they wear? Join the fun to find out!

Dolly, Mom and Me Spring Tea

Reservations are required! See page 4 for more.

May 5, 7, 19, & 21 and June 2, 4, 16, & 18 *Ghosts of Anoka Walking Tours*

(Anoka County History Center) Take a walk on downtown Anoka's to hear stories of things that go bump in the night! Advanced tickets are highly recommended—these popular tours sell out very fast. Reserve your place by calling 763-421-0600. Tours are on the first and third Thursday and Saturday of each month through October. All tours begin at 7:30 pm.

May 25, 7:05 pm

(Midway Stadium, St. Paul) Come early to see the old-time Washington County Historical Society St. Croix's take on the Blue Earth Historical County Society Baltics. You'll get a chance to win prizes and see demonstrations, exhibits and much more, including an exhibit about Anoka County's Civil War veterans from the Anoka County Historical Society. The old-time baseball action is at 6:45 PM, but the fun starts much sooner! See page 7 for more information.

Night at the Museum) of Minnesota

July 10, 1-5:00

This year's tour centers on the Christian Hill neighborhood and the very fashionable Third Avenue South in Anoka!

Save the Date! Anoka Home and Garden Tour



History Center News

Newsletter of the Anoka County Historical Society

Vol. 41 No. 4

July — August 2011

Anoka's Heritage Home & Garden Tour

SERVING:

- Andover
- Anoka
- Bethel
- Blaine
- Centerville
- Circle Pines
- Columbia Heights
- Columbus
- Coon Rapids
- East Bethel
- Fridley
- Ham Lake
- Hilltop
- Lexington
- Lino Lakes
- Linwood
- Nowthen
- Oak Grove
- Ramsey
- St. Francis
- Spring Lake Park



320 Monroe Street

The story of this home is the tale of two properties. That's right, two properties and one house. This house was moved just over a quarter mile from its original Swede Town

location at 2235 Third Avenue in 2007. The vacant house was scheduled for demolition until it was moved to its current location after being purchased for \$1.00 (75¢ for the house and 25¢ for the garage).

In its former location, the original part of the house was built around 1866, but there is some confusion as to whether or not it was built by D.E. Whitney or John and Abbie Covill. The Covills aren't found in the 1870 or 1875 census, but an 1889 city directory shows a lumberman, Fred O. Gerrish, living at the corner of Third Avenue and Harrison Street. Fred's widow, Cecillia, lived here until her son, George H. Gerrish took ownership in 1902. He sold it to Phillip McGraw in 1910. Towards the end of its time on Third Avenue, some of the rooms were used by the Anoka Police Department as a dispatch center.

Since its move, the house has gone through many improvements. It was turned so the former front entrance is now the east facing side entrance. A new cement block foundation replaced the river rock foundation at the old location. The stress of the move cracked many of the original plaster walls. They were repaired where possible and replaced with sheetrock where the damage was too extensive for repair. The current owners have lived here since 2010. They say that most of what they have done since moving in are minor cosmetic repairs. Make sure to check out the original woodwork, fireplace, and built-in buffet and china cabinet.

1821 Fourth Avenue

Are you superstitious? How would you feel if your garage was built on the grave of a former resident? Fortunately, the current owners don't have to deal with that problem, but for a while they thought they did. When building a new garage in 1991, owners Alan and Susan Vokaty dug up a stone that appeared to be a grave marker. It read "In Memory of Paul W. Heilman, 1927-1948." Given Anoka's many stories of ghosts and haunting, thoughts of



a burial on the property seemed natural. But a little digging provides a different story. Paul Heilman died in 1948 in a car wreck near Lake George. Paul was the son of Frank and Florence Heilman, who purchased this home in 1946. Paul was actually buried in Iowa, but no one knows what the story is with the stone or why it was buried in the yard (the Heilmans did their own garage addition in 1960).

As for the home itself, it was built sometime around 1920 by Henry and Rose Lee. Before it was built, it was the location of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Anoka. The built-in cupboard in the bathroom is thought to be original, as is the claw foot tub and front door. The current owners have been here for 18 years and rebuilt the front porch in 2003.

1852 Fifth Avenue

The current owners are only the third owners of this house. They have stripped old wallpaper, as many as four layers thick, from the walls, custom built kitchen cabinets, restored windows, replaced the roof, repaired and replaced the trim, refinished the bathrooms, and finished two of the three porches in the house! They bought the house from Clement Dahlheimer in 1999, and have been working on it ever since. Clement's daughter was married in the house and the current owners' daughter was born in the house—on purpose!

The earliest owners, William Ward and his wife, Catherine, are believed to have added the dormers and back porches. Some of the radiators are patented in 1921, indicating a change from hot air convection heating to hot water heating with a boiler. The second floor is thought to have originally been a single room. All of the floors are original, as is most of the woodwork and the windows. The original plaster walls remain. William and his brothers began the Ward Transfer Company. William was also the postmaster, a county commissioner, and fireman. While the current owners have committed to keep as many of the original features with all of their renovations—including keeping and repairing the original wooden windows—in their own improvements they have uncovered lots of evidence of previous renovations. The tradition of this house is change!

Make sure to check out the garden, too!



For more information on touring these homes, see page 5.

History Center News is published by the Anoka County Historical Society six times yearly as a member benefit.

Anoka County History Center & Library

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Fax (763) 323-0218

E-mail: achs@ac-hs.org

www.ac-hs.org

History Center Hours:

Tuesday 10-8

Wednesday-Friday 10-5

Saturday 10-4

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The Anoka County Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Contributions to ACHS are tax-deductible within the allowable limits of the law.

From the Director...

By Todd Mahon

While putting together the history of a building in Anoka, I've put some serious thought into business and organizational records. The building is 1917 Second Avenue South. Today it is the home of the Grass Roots Cooperative. Prior to that, it was operated by the Lakewinds Cooperative, and before that it was the Anoka Co-op. In writing a brief written history of the cooperatives that have been there, I spoke with a few people associated with the Anoka Co-op. In these conversations I learned that the location of the minutes and organizational records from that Co-op is currently unknown—at least to me and the people I spoke with. The Anoka Co-op, founded in the late 1970s, has an important history to share and I would love to make those records available for the public, either by housing them here at the Anoka County History Center, or elsewhere.

The decision about the care and availability of business and organizational records isn't always easy. When an organization ceases to exist, it is often a stressful time, regardless of the reason. Decisions about the future of records are often put on the back burner and before those decisions get made, the organization is no longer active to make those decisions. The records can be forever lost to history. Other times organizations are still in existence, but they don't know what to do with their records or don't feel that they are ready to "give them up."

I feel strongly that if an organization is willing and able to care for their records and allow some kind of access, that is the most desirable. More often than not, if a researcher is looking for information about a business or organization, the first place they are going to look is with the organization. But for lots of volunteer and nonprofit groups, making the records available through a local historical society or library is a great benefit to the organization and to the greater public.

ACHS has many organizational records in its collection. The Linwood Helping Hands Club is going to be featured in an upcoming newspaper column by Maria King and she made great use of their minutes (incidentally, the ladies of the Helping Hands made great use of humor in their meeting minutes—sometimes I fail to give the past its due in regard to having a sense of humor, why is that?). The Grand Army of the Republic's J.S. Cady Post #2's minutes can be found at the History Center, too. Here's hoping those Anoka Co-op minutes will turn up and an appropriate home can be found for them, as well.

From the President...

By Tom Scheroman

Now is the time to dive head first into the history of Anoka County, especially for ACHS members. If you have not experienced The World War One exhibit at the History Center, time will soon be running out, as this amazing display of artifacts will be with us only until the first of the year. Uniforms, weapons and a life-sized WWI trench that enables you to experience the lives of the doughboys of Anoka County (minus the mud!) Stories of their valor and sacrifices will take you back nearly 100 years to the time when our ancestors answered the call to go "Over There" to fight "the war to end all wars."

Another outstanding opportunity to delve into the history of Anoka County is the "Ghosts of Anoka" tour our which run through October every first and third Thursday and Saturday of each month. The tour, which begins and ends at the History Center, is a skillful weaving together of history, conjecture and fact, sprinkled with a flair for the dramatic and seasoned by good story telling. Stories abound in Anoka of odd happenings and eerie encounters. There is a house where the rocking chair rocks with no one sitting in it. A business in town has employees who won't enter parts of the building because of the woman seen only in a mirror. There are doors that lock themselves, displays that change on their own, cold drafts.....and all of this is available to ACHS members for the modest price of \$5.00. For those who don't yet have a membership to ACHS, the ticket price is \$7.00. Call 763-741-0600 for reservations today! You can pay for your tickets with your MasterCard or Visa when you call for reservations.

Don't just sit at home waiting for the leaves to fall! Join us at the Anoka County Historical Society for fun, educational, and even spooky times!

A Tale of Three Quilts

The Manomin Quilt

In 1875, Manomin was what is today Fridley, Columbia Heights, Hilltop, and Spring Lake Park. When Minnesota was organizing to become a state in 1857, one of the tasks was to divide the state into counties and organize county governments. When Anoka County was organized, it did not include the southern most part of the county; that portion was its own county of Manomin.

Manomin County was very small with a population of 117 people in 1865. It existed until providing county services in such a limited area became too cumbersome. In 1870, Manomin became part of Anoka County with the name changing to Fridley Township in 1879. Over the next hundred years, it became the four communities of Fridley, Columbia Heights, Hilltop and Spring Lake Park.



Though very faded and worn, many of the names signed in the album squares of the quilt can still be read. J.C. Sullivan signed his name and added, "Manomin, Minnesota" to a quilt square. "1875" is included on a square, providing a clear date for the quilt. J.C.

Sullivan was probably John Sullivan. John was born in Ireland and came to Fridley in 1863. He bought a farm that was located just north of the present intersection of 694 and Highway 65 in Fridley. John and his wife, Margaret, had 12 children.

Other names on the quilt can be traced to Sullivan family members and their neighbors. The signature or album quilt was like an autograph album in fabric and very popular in the last half of the 1800s. Why the quilt was made or show it was made for has been lost, but its deep connection to Anoka County stands clear.

The Gjertvig Quilt

Another signature quilt was started some 60 years later in St. Francis. Gertrude Gilson Gjertvig began this signature quilt in the late 1930s. She had her friends sign quilt squares, embroidering their names on the plain white parts. Some included dates on their piece. Gertrude planned her quilt in what she called the "Jacob" pattern. She used bleached sugar sacks for the signature squares. The "C & H Sugar" label can still be seen on some of the squares.

For some reason, Gertrude never finished her quilt. She had the signatures and most of the pieces appliquéd, but it remained a stack of squares. Perhaps there weren't enough hours in her day as Gertrude was a teacher. She was born in St. Francis, grew up, and taught school there. She married and had a family, so she probably

didn't have a lot of time for quilting.

In 1990, Harriet Haggard, Gertrude's daughter, brought the quilt pieces to ACHS. She donated it with the hope that it might someday be completed.



The job of completing the quilt began at the Anoka County Fair in 1991. Volunteers first appliquéd the last of the pieces onto the squares, then sewed the squares together.

A group from Fridley quilted, finished the edges, and completed the quilt in 1992. It took over 50 years, but the quilt begun to remember friends and family in the St. Francis area was finally finished.



ACHS Signature Quilt

The last of the three quilts is one that is still making its history. As a fund raiser, ACHS is creating a signature quilt, just as was done a century ago by women all across the nation. A few "famous" signatures have been signed on the quilt and the remaining squares are now up for sale. For a donation of \$5 or \$10, your name can be part of history on this quilt. Stitched completely by hand (no sewing machine!), this quilt repeats a pattern from another quilt in the ACHS collection reminiscent of a Sanitary Commission quilt. These quilts were made to send to Civil War soldiers, but our quilt will go to the winning raffle ticket holder. Those who buy a signature square are given a raffle ticket as a chance to own the quilt when it is completed. Additional raffle tickets can also be purchased. All proceeds will benefit the preservation of history in Anoka County.

Stop by the History Center to see these special quilts—and buy your signature square soon—there are only so many squares available on this quilt sure to make (and preserve) history!

New Stories in the “Tell Me A Story” Exhibit

If you have not visited the exhibit hall lately, it’s time to stop in again. There are always incredible pieces of history to be found there and they are always changing.

ACHS changes artifacts on exhibit to protect and preserve them. Sensitive objects, such as paper and textiles, need to be changed more often than objects made of metal or glass. Light damages cloth and paper items quickly (think about things left in the back window of your car!) and it is our responsibility to do as little harm as possible to our artifacts while still allowing our visitors to enjoy them.

Protecting sensitive objects is why visitors will now find a selection of new items with great stories in the *Tell Me a Story* exhibit.

One of the new stories features a business that has called three Anoka County communities home during its nearly 100 years of operation, Grosslein Beverages. The business was sold and the family donated many artifacts to help preserve the story of this business that started on Mississippi Street in Fridley, moved to Anoka where they opened a soda pop bottling plant, and finally to Ramsey where they operated a beverage distribution company.



One of the most fun aspects of this exhibit are the stories the artifacts brought out! Program Manager Vickie Wendel spent an entire morning with Duke Grosslein sorting through the artifacts and recording the stories Duke told

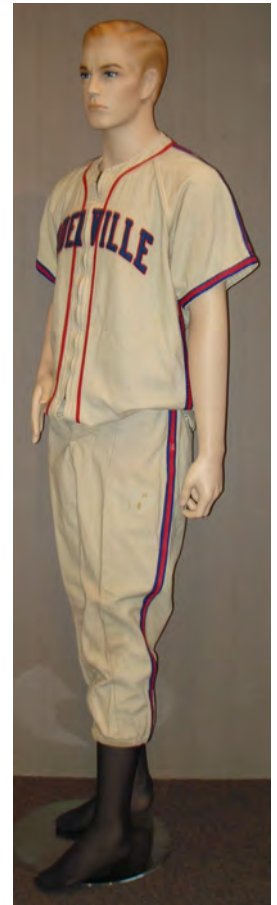
about them. Wait until you read the story he told about the bottles they sometimes got back from establishments that were not supposed to be selling liquor! This section of the exhibit features everything from wooden beer barrels and crates to glass bottles and family photographs.



What could be better than a swim in one of Anoka County’s many lakes on a hot summer day?! The swimsuit on display is just the thing to be at your most fashionable best—in the 1930s! It even bears the label of a famous clothing maker still in business today.

Summer time is also baseball time and we have a uniform from Soderville. Darrell Roseland wore this uniform in 1958—but he wasn’t on the team. He was too young to play on the all-adult team. But they gave him the uniform to wear while he was the team’s bat boy.

Oh, and, believe it or not, the swimsuit and the baseball uniform are made of the same material—and you have to come to the museum to find out what that material is!



Do you have memories of going to scout camp in some summer of the past? Hannah Sell did and when she went to scout camp, she wore her bloomer costume scout uniform. The bloomer skirt was quite the fashion—a girl could ride a bicycle, hike, and play active sports without needing to worry about her skirts, yet the bloomers let her remain a proper lady.

Come explore these new stories and think about the stories that you could record from your own summer memories.

Anoka Heritage Home and Garden Tour



Every Ticket holder is eligible for a FREE one-night stay at Anoka's Ticknor-Hill Bed and Breakfast.

A highlight of the summer, the Anoka Heritage Home and Garden Tour features open house tours of some of the city's most beautiful and historic homes and some of its most well-tended gardens. Raffle prizes will be given away by local businesses on the tour. For more information on the tour and the homes participating, visit www.ac-hs.org or call us at 763-421-0600.

Advanced tickets on sale at the Anoka County History Center, and at the Artique and Devon's Gardens on the day of the tour.

A fundraiser hosted by:



Anoka County Historical Society



Proudly Sponsored by:



The Artique
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Framing



The Christian Hill Neighborhood



Announcements and News

◆Just a reminder that the July 14 and August 11 ACHS Board of Directors meetings will be at 6:00 p.m. All are held at the History Center. Board meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome.

A Service of Remembrance

In May of 2010, then Commissioner Dennis Berg received a phone call from Pat Cooper, a former Marine who served in Vietnam in 1968. Pat had been searching for the family of another Marine who had been killed in an ambush, but all he knew about where Swede Hedlund had come from was Cedar,



Leonard "Link" Lindquist

Minnesota. Since Cedar is a neighborhood name and not an incorporated place, Pat's search took more than 40 years. When he learned Cedar was in Anoka County, he called the first phone number he found on the Anoka County official website—and was connected to Dennis Berg's. By coincidence, Dennis is a Vietnam vet himself, knew the Hedlund family, and was able to put Pat in touch with the siblings of the man Pat only knew as Swede.

As the story developed, it was decided to hold a Service of Remembrance for Marine Corps Sergeant Peter "Swede" Hedlund, inviting his fellow Marines, family, and friends to pay their respects once more.

On May 27, some 40 people gathered in the Cedar Cemetery, including Leonard "Link" Lindquist, the only survivor from the truck Peter Hedlund was driving when they were ambushed by the North Vietnamese that fateful February day in 1968.

Tears fell as freely as the rain as family and friends shared stories of Peter. It was a very special time of healing and remembering.

Thanks to all who made this special time possible, especially the Anoka County



Greetings Volunteers! *By Elaine Koehn*

After our long winter, summer has finally arrived. I will be on vacation from June 16 through June 26th, so I have already talked to many of you regarding volunteer opportunities over the summer. Thank you so much for your great response to volunteer needs at Riverfest on July 9. I will be contacting you with more information closer to the event. And, also the Annual Heritage Home and Garden Show on July 10. We will be stationed at ten homes and I will be sending you a letter with information on the home you agreed to staff when I return on June 28.

This year's Anoka County Fair will be held the week of Tuesday, July 26 through Sunday July 31. A minimum of six people are needed each day on two shifts. The morning shift is 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, and the afternoon shift will be 3:00 pm until 8:00 pm. For many years, ACHS has staffed the farmhouse near the north end of the fairgrounds. We demonstrate old-fashioned crafts and explain several items that were once common in rural Anoka County. Again, the work is not hard, and you will meet interesting people, but there is no air conditioning! You get to wear a costume, but only if you want to. Your entry ticket will be provided and you will have enough time off to visit the attractions (and fill up on fair food!)

Other volunteer opportunities are also available for people seeking shorter time commitments and for those seeking a project of their own. Give me a call for ideas and we'll work out a schedule to meet your availability.

Finally, I would like to welcome new volunteers who have joined our History Center volunteer staff: Victoria Eze, Loretta McCulloch, Cheryl Hengescht, Margo Fletcher, and Brandi Kastner. In addition, new Ghost tour docents who participated in the training this spring include: Julie VanderBloomer, Shana Schmitz, Joni Strandquest, Trish Bates and Wayne Chevalier.

Thank you to all our returning and new volunteers for all you do to support this organization in our mission to promote local history.

Contributions & New Members — Thank you

(All lists are current to June 17, 2011.)

DONATIONS

American Legion Post #102
David Dietz
Edward Jones Investments, Tom Conneran
Grassroots Co-op
Gould's Diamonds & Jewelry
Mary Jablonski
Claude Leathers, in memory of Peter
"Swede" Hedlund
Bonnie McDonald
Ralph Talbot
Chester Tollefson
Mary Ward & Jon Ekerholm

EMPLOYEE MATCH

Ameriprise — Dan Frank

ARTIFACT DONORS

Anoka Masonic Lodge
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Laurie Henderson
Marilyn Jenkins
Don Johnson
Mary Beth Kensek
Maria King
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Stearns History Museum
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Kerry Teale
Vickie Wendel

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Lou Paulson

From

Jeannie and Jerry Bernard
Juanita and Dick Boniface
Kim and Laurie Boyce
Sherry Paulson Boyce and Mark Boyce
and Family
Cloquet Regional Office, University of
Minnesota
Barb Conroy
Gail Dzurak
Richard and Arlene Erickson
Bruce and Karen Finne
Don and Ruby Greenberg
Darlene and Martin Hinz
Orval and JoAnne Leistico
Joyce and Clay Maurer
Sue McCallum
Deb Paulson
Paul Paulson
Roger Paulson
Lucy Schulke
Bill and Jerri Schulz
Clyde and Jan Severson
Elizabeth Storaasli & Mark Knutson
Lois Thompson
Eleanor Thornburg
Ann Walter
John and Mildred Wolfe

In Memory of

Peter "Swede" Hedlund

From Claude Leathers

NEW MEMBERS

Wendy Davis
Marian Grider
Jean Griffin
Don and Marlys Rainbow
Linda Tellefsen

***The Anoka County
Historical Society
extends our sincere
sympathy to the
families of:***

***Raymond Blake, a friend of ACHS
who generously shared his music with
patrons at special events.***

Fact, Folklore & FABRICation

What do we really know about the history and traditions of quilt making? So many stories have been handed down, but they don't always hold up under a close look at history! Come find out what you don't know at the debut of this new program! Admission to the program is free, but seating is limited.

After the program, enjoy the quilts on display in the exhibit hall, FREE admission on Riverfest!

**Anoka's Riverfest July 9
11:00 and Noon**

Anoka County History Center
2135 3rd Avenue N
Anoka

Anoka County Historical Society
2135 Third Avenue North
Anoka, MN 55303
(763) 421-0600

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Coming Events

May-August

(Anoka County History Center) This lobby exhibit tells the story of tornadoes in Anoka County. Highlighting the Anoka tornado of 1939 and the Fridley tornado of 1965, it also explores the long-term impact that these and other storms have had on the county. Stop by the lobby to view photographs, film footage, and artifacts from these storms.

Weathering the Storm: Tornadoes in Anoka County

July 9, 11 am and 12 pm

(History Center) A special new program sure to delight even the non-quilter by challenging what we think we know about the history of quilting and some of its favorite folklore! See page 7 for more details.

Anoka Riverfest—Fact, Folklore & FABRICation

July 10, 1 pm to 5 pm

(Anoka's Christian Hill neighborhood) Get your tickets NOW for this fantastic tour of homes and gardens on Anoka's most "fashionable" neighborhood of the early 1900s. Several businesses are included in the tour where special displays and activities are happening. Get a 50% off coupon for everything at Devon's Gardens! Stop by Ticknor Hill B & B to see if you are the lucky winner of a night's stay! Visit with "Doctor Flora" at the Artique! See page 5 for all the details.

Anoka Heritage Home and Garden Tour

July 7, 9, 21, and 23, 7:30 pm.

August 4, 6, 18, and 20, 7:30 pm.

(Meet at the History Center) Take a walk on downtown Anoka's spookier side and hear stories of things that go bump in the night! These tours are filled with stories of history and of unexplained things. Advanced tickets are highly recommended—these popular tours sell out very fast. Reserve your place by calling 763-421-0600 and use your Master or Visa card to be sure you get your place on the tour. Tours are on the first and third Thursday and Saturday of each month through October.

Ghosts of Anoka Tours

July 26-31

(Anoka County Fair Grounds, North Ferry Street, Anoka) The ACHS will continue our tradition of bringing life to the Old Farmhouse. Be sure to stop by to see what is happening when you are at the Fair! Call Elaine at 763-421-0600 to volunteer.

Anoka County Fair

August 19-21

(7415 Old Viking Blvd., Nowthen) Join in the fun as ACHS staffs the General Store at the Threshing show—but remember, when you walk through those doors, the year is 1920! The store is "open for business" from 10 to 7 on Friday and Saturday and 10 to 5 on Sunday.

Nowthen Threshing Show



History Center News

Newsletter of the Anoka County Historical Society

Vol. 41 No. 5

September — October 2011

SERVING:

- Andover
- Anoka
- Bethel
- Blaine
- Centerville
- Circle Pines
- Columbia Heights
- Columbus
- Coon Rapids
- East Bethel
- Fridley
- Ham Lake
- Hilltop
- Lexington
- Lino Lakes
- Linwood
- Nowthen
- Oak Grove
- Ramsey
- St. Francis
- Spring Lake Park

Historic Murzyn Hall to Host ACHS Sock Hop

On Friday, October 7, the Anoka County Historical Society will hold its second annual Sock Hop fundraiser. Featuring live music from the TC Cats, pizza from Tasty Pizza, beer, soft drinks, root beer floats, and, of course, great silent auction items, including trips, gift certificates, and more.

This year, the event is moving to Columbia Heights to the historic John P. Murzyn Hall. We're looking forward to bringing the event to the southern end of Anoka County and hope that our friends and members who reside north of Heights will follow us southward.



John P. Murzyn Hall opened in 1939 as a WPA project at a cost of \$649,407. John's father, Albert Murzyn, was a mason and he worked on the construction of the building in 1938.

Originally, the Hall was known as the Columbia Heights Field House, and it has served as a community center for the people of Columbia Heights since it opened. The first official event was the January 28th Birthday Ball to celebrate Washington's Birthday in 1939. It was officially dedicated later that spring.

Through the years it has 6 bowling lanes, billiards, and shuffleboard. It served as a youth center, a senior center and even a child care center. In addition to hundreds of weddings and other important occasions, the center has been the location of community dances—so the Sock Hop fundraiser is continuing in the long tradition of the building.

The building was named for John P. Murzyn in 1979 to honor the nearly 40 years John worked for the City of Columbia Heights in their park department. It might be more correctly said that John Murzyn created the park department as prior to his time with the city, the city had no parks.



They owned land, but nothing was developed into any kind of park system. John began working for the city in 1939 and his pay was 15¢ an hour. He had little in the way of budget money to build parks—one year he got \$300 for the entire year—so much of the early development came from what could be “begged” according to John.

John had a deep interest in children and while his responsibilities were not directly tied to the recreation program, most of the programs happened in the parks and facilities for which John was responsible. One of his favorite features of the Field House was the bowling alley. It began with six lanes, but John had three taken out so there was room for a pool table, darts and shuffleboard. John bowled at the Field House until the lanes were taken out in the mid-1960s. He continued to bowl and was proud to say he had been bowling in leagues for 50 years when asked during an interview in 1989.

By the time John retired in 1979, Columbia Heights had 14 developed parks within the city.

It was at his retirement that the City of Columbia Heights gave the Field House a new name—John P. Murzyn Hall, the name it bears yet today.

See page 4 for all the details on the Sock Hop, Friday, October 7, 2011!

History Center News is published by the Anoka County Historical Society six times yearly as a member benefit.

Anoka County History Center & Library

2135 Third Avenue North
Anoka, MN 55303

(763) 421-0600

Fax (763) 323-0218

E-mail: achs@ac-hs.org

www.ac-hs.org

History Center Hours:

Tuesday 10-8

Wednesday-Friday 10-5

Saturday 10-4

Board of Directors

President—Tom Scheroman(District #4)

Vice President—Al Pearson(District #1)

District #2 —Bill Prugh

District #3—Orville Lindquist

District #5 —Jan Anderson

District #6—Judy Hanna

District #7—Bart Ward

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At Large D—Robert Munns

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At Large F — Paul Pierce, III

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Don Johnson

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The Anoka County Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Contributions to ACHS are tax-deductible within the allowable limits of the law.

From the Director...

By Todd Mahon

Support Local History

We live in challenging times.

As a student of history, I could barely bring myself to type that statement. Do we really face greater challenges than those did during the Great Depression? During the Civil War? How will future generations look back on this time period? It's difficult to say. The economy has been pretty rough for a while now, and unemployment numbers, while not at the levels of the Great Depression, certainly have not been so high in my lifetime. As we look back on the years of the American Civil War, it doesn't seem that much of a stretch to see parallels in the divisions we face today.

I am aware that many people are drawn to organizations like the Anoka County Historical Society because of their power to initiate memories—often memories of better times. But I hope that we also serve to remind people that there are no abrupt endings and there are rarely quick beginnings to historical trends. Difficult times can just be a fact of life, it has always been that way, and I assume always will be.

Even in difficult times, the work of the Anoka County Historical Society continues. We have faced severe challenges in raising funds from private sources for the last few years. The ACHS Sock Hop is grateful to have found sponsorship from Northeast Bank and Community Pride Bank this year, but four years ago we raised five times as much support in sponsorship donations. This reality puts greater pressure on selling tickets and increasing auction sales and donations at the event.

I hope you'll help support the good work we do by joining us on October 7 at Columbia Heights' Murzyn Hall for the Sock Hop. There are great auction items donated by local friends and businesses that you can bid on, with all of the proceeds going to the Historical Society. The TC Cats will be playing all of your favorite rock and roll hits from the 1950s and '60s. Tasty Pizza, a longtime Heights favorite, will be serving pizza and the Columbia Heights Lions will be serving beer and soft drinks. Come try your hand at the hula hoop contest, or get in on the cake walk. This event is lots of fun, but we need lots of people there to make it a successful fundraiser. Come out and have fun and help us raise some much needed funds.

From the President...

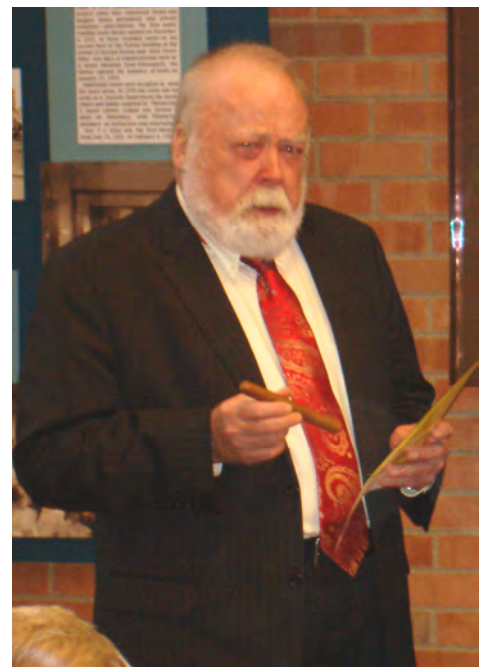
It is with deepest concern that we write this column in Tom's place.

ACHS's president, Tom Scheroman, suffered a stroke while he was at work at Stages Theatre in early July. His treatment for the stroke included some clot-busting drugs and while those drugs did their job, they can have side effects. Tom developed one of those side effects in addition to the effects of the stroke.

Though he's had some ups and downs and a return trip to the ICU at Hennepin County Medical Center, Tom is doing better. He has some weakness on his right side and is starting to speak when asked direct questions. Those who have visited with him say they see recognition in his eyes and know Tom is still there, even if his body isn't yet cooperating.

Everyone at ACHS wishes Tom the best and for speedy recovery. His position as ACHS Board President will be waiting for him when he is well enough to come back to us.

In the meantime, our able vice president, Al Pearson, will be filling in for Tom.



Tom portraying George Burns in a skit at the ACHS 2011 Volunteer Appreciation.

The Story of an Artifact

Turn of the Century Swimwear

By Pam Fredrick

The first clothing specifically designed for wear in the water were called “bathing costumes.” Victorian era bathing costumes required some 12 yards of fabric and covered nearly every inch of the woman’s body below her chin. While available in the mid-1800s, these bathing costumes were not really designed for swimming as we think of it today—they were designed to wear at the beach without getting too wet. Few were worn other than by those who moved in the highest circles of society.

Swimwear developed as “bathing suits” for men in the late 1800s. The 1895 Montgomery Ward & Co. Catalogue No. 57 listed men’s “Knee Tights” in the Athletic Clothing section, offering several varieties made of cotton, one of worsted wool, and one of “puffed Velvet.” Prices ranged from 20¢ to \$1.50. This catalogue also carried “Bathing Suits” and “Swimming Trunks” in the “Tents, Seines, Etc.” section of the catalogue. Here they offered both one-piece and two-piece bathing suits ranging from 75¢ for the economical striped cotton one-piece to \$5.75 for the most extravagant worsted wool two-piece. The swimming trunks included a “Fancy Stripes, boys’ sizes” for 18¢.



Cassius Locke of Fridley wearing his swim suit while fishing, probably in the Mississippi River which ran behind their home, ca. 1930s.

Women’s bathing suits were not offered in the 1895 Montgomery Ward & Co. Catalogue No. 57, but they did appear in the 1902 Sears, Roebuck & Co. Catalogue No. 111. These early 20th century “bathing suits” were hour-glass-shaped dresses that fell below the knee. They were made of wool, cotton, or brilliantine in black or navy only, had short sleeves, and included attached pantaloons. Two-piece suits were the same style with removable skirts. Prices ranged from \$2.98 to \$3.98 per suit. For an additional 15¢ to 25¢ you could order a bathing cap made of either rubber or sateen.

The same 1902 Sears, Roebuck & Co. Catalogue No. 111 also offered men a choice of one-piece or two-piece bathing suits or swimming trunks. Most were now made of cotton, but wool was still available in the two-piece outfit. According to the description in the catalogue, the one-piece is “like an ordinary shirt and knee pants, but all in one piece.” The cost did not change much from 1895, with the boy’s trunks at 20¢ and their best wool two-piece suit going for \$2.75.

Bathing suits of the era took modesty quite seriously. The only portions of the body not covered were the lower arms and lower legs. For some women, this was still too risqué, so tights were worn under the suit, leaving only the lower arms exposed.

Consider how much these early “bathing suits” would weigh when they got wet, especially the women’s styles with their full, flowing skirts and pantaloons of worsted wool!

In the 1930s, in her study on fashion history, Carrie Hall, wrote:

“The bathing suit of today is nothing much before and little less than half of that behind.”

One has to wonder—what would Carrie Hall say about swimwear in 2011?!



Roberta, Marjorie, and Louise Akin of Anoka, ready for the beach, ca. 1912-15.

SOCK HOP

A benefit for the Anoka County Historical Society

Fri., Oct. 7, 2011



at
Murzyn Hall

530 Mill Street NE, Columbia Heights

7:00pm to 10:00pm

\$20
\$25 at the door



Live music with the TC Cats, silent auctions, hula-hoop contest, beer, food, and more.

Sponsored by:



Strength of a Leader. Hand of a Friend.



Community Pride Bank
Community Banking... The Way It Should Be

Call (763) 421-0600 or visit www.ac-hs.org for more information.

Monuments to Life Cemetery Tours

Explore the stories of those who reside in our “silent cities” during the Anoka County Historical Society’s *Monuments to Life* cemetery tours. These tours are evenings filled with stories, traditions, characters, history, and symbolism.

Thursday, October 13—Epiphany Cemetery, Coon Rapids

Saturday, October 15—Forest Hill Cemetery, Anoka

Tuesday, October 18—Oak Leaf Cemetery, Oak Grove

Come to one or come to all three!

Tickets for individual tours are \$7.00 (ACHS members)

\$8.00 (non-members)

Ticket Packages 3 Tours for \$18.00 (ACHS members)

\$21.00 (non-members)

Tickets are limited and must be purchased in advance!

You will receive maps with your ticket purchase.

Get your tickets at the Anoka County History Center,

2135 Third Avenue, Anoka,

or by calling 763-421-0600 with your VISA or Mastercard

All tours begin at 7:00 p.m. and go on rain or shine, so dress for the weather. Be prepared for walking in low light and standing as we visit graves and hear the stories they have to tell. Tours last about an hour.

Write Your Name in History (On a quilt!)

And benefit the Anoka County History Center

Just as was done during the Civil War, you can sign your name to a replica Sanitary Commission style quilt that will be raffled off to raise money for keeping history.

Signature patches are for sale and with each patch, the signer receives a raffle ticket to win the completed quilt, the drawing held in 2012.

Signature Patches

Signers can choose between three sizes of plain muslin patches:

2” x 2” Patch — \$3.00 donation

Half Diamond — \$10.00 donation

Multiple signatures allowed

9” x 9” Patch — \$15.00 donation

Multiple signatures allowed

Raffle Tickets

Tickets are \$1.00 each
or 6 for \$5.00.

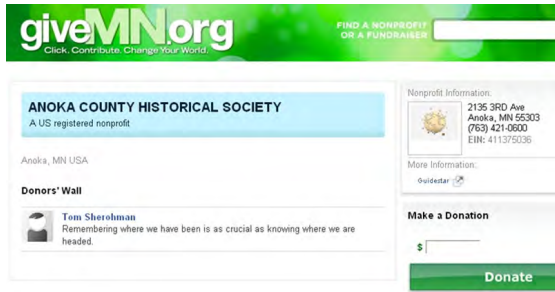
The winner will be
drawn in 2012.

**All proceeds benefit the
Anoka County
Historical Society**



Announcements and News

♦Just a reminder that the September 8 and October 13 ACHS Board of Directors meetings will be at 6:00 p.m. All meetings are held at the History Center. Board meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome.



Teapots needed!

The very popular *Holiday Dolly and Me* teas are tentatively scheduled for the first and third weekends in December, but we need your help! We have an abundance of cups and saucers, but some of our teapots are no longer usable. If you have a teapot you would like to donate for this popular program, call Elaine at 763-421-0600.

ACHS is on Facebook— Are you?

If you “like” ACHS, you can get in on the fun of trivia questions, history discussions, photos from events, information about upcoming events, and more. At last count, ACHS was closing in on 300 fans and we’d love more!

Facebook is a unique way to share Anoka County with many people all over the world. ACHS staff puts up questions about county history several times a week and asks for your best answer. Sometimes, the questions don’t have “correct” answers, but are seeking your memories of places, things, or people of Anoka County’s past.

If you like looking at photos, do check out the photo album section of the ACHS page. Both historic photos and those taken of events are posted on the Facebook page for everyone to enjoy. The ACHS Facebook page is a public page, so even if you are not a “Facebooker,” you can still go to the site and see what is up-to-the-minute happening at ACHS!

Greetings Volunteers! *By Elaine Koehn*

More than 25 volunteers shared their time at the Anoka County Fair July 26-31st, some for two and three shifts. I was amazed at the creative talents volunteers shared with fair goers. Two volunteers did research on women’s suffrage and prohibition. The tip sheets were a valuable tool to stimulate conversation with people touring the “Old Farm House.” Many volunteers illustrated their talents through a variety of activities such as: wood carving, lace making, butter churning, making lye soap, quilting, embroidery, and activities for children. Those touring the farm house were especially interested in the round Ice Box and wood cooking stove, “I remember my Grandmother cooking on a stove like that” was a very familiar phrase. Thank you so much for your time. The shifts were long and hot, but you proved what we already knew, ACHS Volunteers are the best.

On the heels of the fair comes the Nowthen Threshing Show and we know why some people call this three day event one of the best in the country. Quoting Maria King, “It gathers hundreds of rare and historic antique tractors, small engines, steam engines, trucks, cars, implements and

tools in one place for a fun-packed, three-day event geared toward *Bringing the Past to the Present* for people of all ages”. I had the opportunity to work in the 1920 General Store ACHS



staffs during the Threshing Show this year and see for myself the wild and fun time we have greeting thousands of visitors in the store! (Our volunteer staff sold almost \$800 in pickles, pop, and penny candy! They were BUSY!)

The Minnesota State Fair is just around the corner, and we are invited to provide a guest reader for children visiting the Minnesota Department of Education booth. Kelsey Jopp, an ACHS volunteer who annually goes to the state fair has agreed to dress in costume and represent the Anoka County Historical Society. She will bring a short book pertaining to Anoka County history and the character era she is representing.

I would like to welcome new volunteers who have joined our History Center volunteer staff; Cheryl Hengescht, Kelsey Jopp, Marna Duxbury, Kimberly Witalka and Patricia Hanley. Thank you so much for selecting ACHS to volunteer your time. We appreciate all of our dedicated volunteers and I believe you will find your experience with us very rewarding.

Contributions & New Members — Thank you

(All lists are current to August 25, 2010)

DONATIONS

Robert W. Akin II
Mary Anhalt
The Artique
Larry Backlund
Kevin & Patti Bellows
June Bendix
Les & Mary Berg
Christian Hill Neighborhood
Julie Ann Gustafson Dale
Lucille Elrite
Dan Erhart
Janet Galvin
Eric & Lois Hedlund
Pat Hopkins
Pat Johnson
Susie Kamp
Sue Klante
Georgette Knoll
Lynne Larson
Orval & JoAnne Leistico
Linwood Township
Teri Ningen
Northeast Bank
Dorothy Peterson
Philip Pinewski
Donald Sage & Joyce Bonnell Sage
James Stuart
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 470
Julienne Wyckhoff

EMPLOYEE MATCH

Medtronic Foundation —
Darryl & Diane Sannes

ARTIFACT DONORS

Anoka County Sheriff's Office
Anoka Halloween Committee
Binie Bodine Bertile
Marlys Chutich
Richard DeLong
Roy Downs
John Freeburg
Duke Grosslein
Tom Gerster
Lowell Hammer
Anthony Hirman
Kathe Lundberg
Linda Norman
Marian Schulz
Lorraine Soderquist
James Stuart
Lois Winberg

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Ernest Soine
From Dorothy Carlson
In Memory of Marcella Nelson
From Dorothy Carlson
In Memory of John Wolfe
From Dorothy Carlson
In Memory of Earl Jacob
From Dorothy Carlson &
Beverly Jacob

NEW MEMBERS

Diane Bemel (Anoka)
Sherry Boyce (Duluth)
Jeffrey & Christine Bruin (Anoka)
August & LaVerne Grosslein (Anoka)
Alison Marzolf (Columbia Heights)
Darryl & Diane Sannes (Brooklyn Center)

The Anoka County Historical Society extends our sincere sympathy to the families of:

Earl L. Jacob, who passed away on May 27, 2011. Earl was a WWII vet and member of ACHS with a love for local history.

John Wolfe, who passed away on July 2, 2011. John was a long time member of ACHS and a strong supporter of history.

Scott LeDoux, who passed away on August 11, 2011. Scott was a former Anoka County Commissioner, professional boxer, and contributor to keeping Anoka County's history as much as he made it.

Caring for Quilts

Our quilt exhibit, *Pieced and Patched*, remains open and has brought many visitors into the exhibit hall. Many stop by the desk after their visit with questions of how they can best preserve their grandmother's, mother's, or even their own quilts. The first decision to make is what you want for the quilt. If you simply want to preserve it, then properly packing it in an archival box, storing that box in a location that does not have drastic changes in temperature or humidity and inspecting/refolding it once or twice a year is the best answer.

If you want to display or use the quilt, you do run the risk of damaging it, but you also have the pleasure of enjoying it. If you plan to keep your quilt out, here are a few tips:

Protect it from light! Light is highly damaging to textiles and there is no way to repair a faded fabric. Don't put your prized quilt on a bed in front of a south window for more than just a very temporary display and when it is not being viewed, cover it with a clean sheet to protect it from sunlight. Even if there is no window close by, covering the quilt with a sheet when it is not being viewed is a good idea. Museum standards suggest a quilt should not be exposed to daily light for more than 6-9 months before it is rested in darkness for at least twice that long.

Don't put your quilt on a bed where you sleep every night. Oils from your hands and the stress of pulling it up under your chin will cause wear and damage to the quilt.

Avoid storing your quilt in a cardboard box, plastic bag, or wooden chest. Chemicals given off by these items can cause great damage to quilts.

Never use pins, nails or other items that make holes in the quilt if you are hanging it. The best method is to carefully hand sew a cotton tube at the top of the back side of the quilt. Slip a rod in the tube so the weight of the quilt is distributed evenly at it hangs.

Unless there is no other choice, avoid washing your quilt. Airing it flat on a clean sheet is the best way to remove smells. This can be done outside as green grass is a great natural deodorizer. Find a dry, shady area of your lawn, spread a clean sheet on the ground under your quilt and another sheet over it. Allow it to rest for a couple hours, turn it over to put the other side of the quilt down for another couple hours. You will need to watch this process carefully to make sure there is no sudden shower of rain, wind to blow the cover sheet off, or the neighbor's dog decides to come for a visit!

For more detailed care of quilts, please call ACHS and we will help you with resources to answer your preservation questions. (763) 421-0600.

Anoka County Historical Society
2135 Third Avenue North
Anoka, MN 55303
(763) 421-0600

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Coming Events

September 1, 3, 15, & 17 at 7:30 p.m.

Ghosts of Anoka Tour

October 6, 8, 20, 24 through 29, and 31, with more added as demand requires 7:30 p.m.

Meet at the History Center. Tickets required. This special Ghost Tour takes guest to places where something unexplained has happened and lets them decide what it might be! This tour is just over a mile long and is in the twilight and evening hours. Adult tickets are \$7 for non-members, \$5 for members and \$3 for children under 18 years. Get your tickets early, as we sell out of these popular tickets *fast!* Remember, we accept VISA and Mastercard.

September 10, events scheduled all day

Linwood Family Fun Day

(Linwood Town Hall) This family fun event is a Linwood tradition and ACHS will be a part of it this year with a traveling focusing on Linwood. The ACHS traveling Civil War exhibit will also be in Linwood for the day. Expect pancakes, music, a silent auction, displays from the Linwood Fire Department, and even Elvis!! See the Linwood website or call Linwood Town Hall for more information. Everyone is welcome!

September 24, 10-4

City of Nowthen Heritage Day

(Nowthen City Hall, 19800 Nowthen Blvd.) Celebrate the history and heritage of Nowthen! The day begins is filled with historical displays, crafts, food, games, music, and more! ACHS will have an exhibit on Nowthen history from 10:00-4:00.

October 7, 6:00 p.m.

Sock Hop!

(Columbia Heights) Poodle skirts, duck tails, and saddle shoes will be all the rage as we recreate a sock hop at Murzyn Hall in Columbia Heights! We'll have wonderful music to dance to from the days of the sock hops, with fun and fabulous auction items at the Historical Society's biggest event of the year! This is a not-to-be-missed event, so get your tickets now! For more, see page 4.

October 13, 15, & 18, 7:00 p.m.

Annual "Monuments to Life" Cemetery Tours

The 9th annual *Monuments to Life* cemetery tour series. This year's tour starts at **Epiphany Cemetery in Coon Rapids on Thursday, October 13th**. Next is the **Forest Hill Cemetery in Anoka on Saturday, October 15th**, and the tours wrap up on **Tuesday, October 18th, at the Oak Leaf Cemetery in East Bethel**. All tours begin at 7:00 and go on rain or shine. Buy a single tour ticket or save money with a ticket package for all three! See page 5 for more details.

October 29, 1:00 p.m.

Anoka Halloween Grand Day Parade

(Main Street, Anoka) Come wave to ACHS staff and volunteers as the Grosslein Beverage Truck (Model 1919) takes to the parade route!



History Center News

Newsletter of the Anoka County Historical Society

Vol. 41 No. 6

November — December 2011

SERVING:

- Andover
- Anoka
- Bethel
- Blaine
- Centerville
- Circle Pines
- Columbia Heights
- Columbus
- Coon Rapids
- East Bethel
- Fridley
- Ham Lake
- Hilltop
- Lexington
- Lino Lakes
- Linwood
- Nowthen
- Oak Grove
- Ramsey
- St. Francis
- Spring Lake Park

A Most Determined Woman — Lydia Hancock

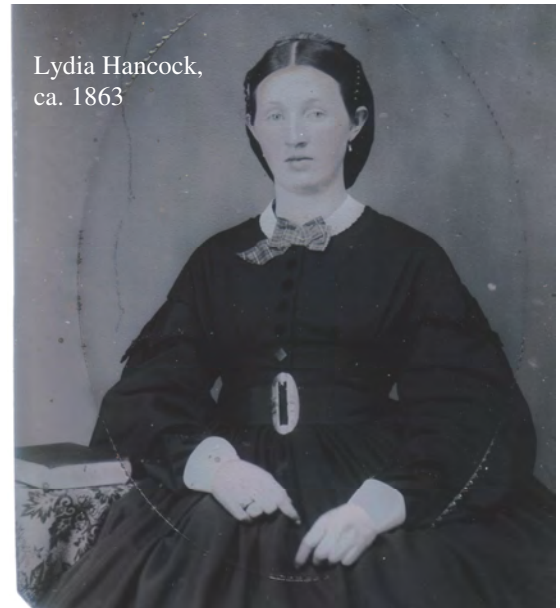
Lydia Hancock's story places her among a class of women with a unique role in the American Civil War. She would have been called a "camp follower" by many people when she went off to war at the heels of the company in which her husband was serving. Her actions defied that slanderous name and the scandalous activities it implied.

We know a fair amount about Lydia from documents in the Downs Family collection at ACHS. She worked as a nurse for the men of Company A, Eighth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry from the time it was organized in the summer of 1862 until she was "honorably released" from her service in February of 1864. It was said, "She found it was not necessary to be either in hospitals or upon the battlefields to be of service to her country's defenders."

The Union Army had little time for women and nurses had to work as volunteers, especially early in the war. Many believed women were not strong enough to withstand the horrors that could be encountered in an army hospital and therefore, most nurses were men when the war began. Lydia was one of many women who would soon prove the Union Army wrong.

Born in New Limerick, Maine, on April Fool's Day of 1839, Lydia's ancestry traced back to England. Her maiden name was Philpot and she moved to Minnesota with her family in 1854, where, in 1857, she married Charles H. Hancock when she was 18 years old. Charles and Lydia farmed just outside of Elk River, Minnesota. The farm was large, having a value of \$2,000 in 1860. Charles and Lydia also had another \$600 in personal property. It is not known what the circumstances were, but two years later, Lydia and Charles brought Abigail Adams, an orphaned toddler, into their home.

News of events in the South began to reach Minnesota and men were needed for the Union Army. Minnesota offered the first troops to Lincoln and continued to meet the President's calls for more soldiers to put down the



Lydia Hancock, ca. 1863

rebellion. Also watching the war efforts were the Dakota Indians then living on a reservation along the Minnesota River. Angry Dakota braves rebelled at the lack of payment for lands given up in treaties, the crop failures, and near starvation some of their people were facing. Their council of war suggested if ever there was a time to take back their lands, it was while so many of the white men were off fighting among themselves in the South. A confrontation between Dakota hunters and some white settlers near Acton, Minnesota, drew the first blood on August 17, 1862. That night, the Dakota's council of war decided to attack settlements in an effort to drive the whites out.

The day after that first confrontation at Acton, Charles enlisted in Company A of the Eighth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, then forming up at Anoka. While their farm was in Sherburne County, it was only a stone's throw from the Anoka County line and the couple had many friends in the communities of Ramsey and Anoka. The captain of the company was John S. Cady, a local surveyor who was gathering recruits to form Company A from the men of Anoka County and the surrounding areas. The regiment was assigned immediately, in fact, even before many of the men were formally mustered into the service, to defend the settlers of Minnesota against the Dakota Indians.



Company A of the 8th Minnesota Infantry on Main Street, Anoka. 1862.

(Continued on page 4)

History Center News is published by the Anoka County Historical Society six times yearly as a member benefit.

Anoka County History Center & Library

2135 Third Avenue North
Anoka, MN 55303

(763) 421-0600

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E-mail: achs@ac-hs.org

www.ac-hs.org

History Center Hours:

Tuesday 10-8

Wednesday-Friday 10-5

Saturday 10-4

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The Anoka County Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Contributions to ACHS are tax-deductible within the allowable limits of the law.

From the Director...

By Todd Mahon

Could Legacy Money Be Used for a Stadium?

In the last few weeks, there has been a lot of talk about how the State of Minnesota might contribute to building a stadium for the Minnesota Vikings. One idea that keeps coming up is using money from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, which comes from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment that was passed by Minnesota's voters in 2008. While no specific proposals regarding the use of these funds have surfaced, the discussion has certainly not gone away.

On October 28, I attended the annual meeting of the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums. Steve Elliot, the executive director of the Minnesota Historical Society addressed the group. One person asked about how serious this idea was. Elliot said he was taking it very seriously. Ben Leonard, the outgoing president of the Alliance and the director at the Nicollet County Historical Society brought up some great points in the discussion that I thought I'd repeat.

The discussion about whether or not the Vikings qualify as a part of Minnesota's cultural heritage is fruitless. However, to this point, Legacy funds have not been provided to for-profit entities. They have also not been provided for bricks and mortar projects on new construction—only for the rehabilitation of historic structures.

The Anoka County Historical Society received funds from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund to put together original research on the suburban development of Anoka and Hennepin counties. We have also been working with other Anoka County groups in the last year to secure funds for their projects to preserve and share Anoka County's rich history.

Opposing using Legacy funds for a stadium doesn't mean that one is necessarily opposed to a state contribution to the project. But these funds were voted on by the public for a specific purpose. It was a remarkable thing for Minnesota voters to pass this amendment. The threshold for passing a constitutional amendment includes that a non-vote on a legitimate ballot equates to a vote against it. Despite this, the amendment passed with more support than any other candidate or issue on that year's ballot. Minnesotans came together because they saw a need for these funds.

Please contact your representatives in the state legislature and share your thoughts.

From the President...

By Al Pearson

As the new president of ACHS, this is my first column for *History News*. I wondered what I should write about, having grown up in the county and what my focus should be. I started thinking about today and comparing it to what I grew up with, realizing how much history is around me every day.

In the early '40s, we walked to a one-room Ramsey school for grades 1-8. The school had an outhouse for bathroom facilities. Water came from a hand pump out in the yard. The heating system was a coal stove in the back corner of the room.

The older boys assigned to attending the stove would come early to bring coal up from the cellar bin to stoke the stove so the school room would be warm by starting time. The other jobs for the older kids were to pump water and fill the water fountain which was in the front hall. They swept the floor daily, wiped the desks off, cleaned the blackboards and clapped the erasers. In the winter months, shoveling snow was another regular chore for "the older boys."

The older girls helped the teacher with younger children in reading, writing, also with their boots and mittens when it was time to go home. During the years of WWII, the kids doing the chores were paid one 25¢ U.S. Savings Bond stamp a week.

With no electricity, the lighting was kerosene lamps, but for special activities, my father was always asked to bring his "modern" gas lantern. He was also on the school board and was responsible for the playground. He mowed the grass, installed swings and a teeter totter. The swings consisted of a 4" x 6" plank bolted between two oak trees.

Some of our extra activities were skating on the pond behind the school, Basket Socials and Christmas plays. Basket Socials were always fun because we got to buy that special girl's basket and sit with her to eat!

My how things have changed!

I look forward to serving as your president and working with all of our members to preserve our history.

The Story of an Artifact

Linwood's Ballot Box

This box is small, only 6 1/2" x 9 3/4" x 6", but it had a big responsibility. It was the ballot box used by Linwood Township for their elections. The wear marks indicate it was probably used for many elections over many years, but it is believed 1950 was the last time. That was when Sanford Broadbent, the town clerk, just put the box away after the election was over and kept it safe.

That date is a pretty good guess as the last ballots cast in the box were still inside it and those were dated 1950.

That year, there was a race for a township board seat, Logan Grant was facing Stanley F. Wiezycki to a three year term. (Grant won) S. C. Broadbent was the only one running for the town clerk in 1950, but the ballot provided a place for a write-in candidate should the voter decide not to vote for Broadbent. The "S. C." stood for Sanford Carroll and he was RE-elected. Sanford had first been elected to the Linwood Town Board in 1912 and he continued to serve the board he was consistently reelected to

including the election in 1950. When Sanford passed away in 1953, it left the Town Board without a Broadbent on it for the first time since 1912 and then only until Sanford's son, Carroll, was elected at the next election. Carroll served until 1962.



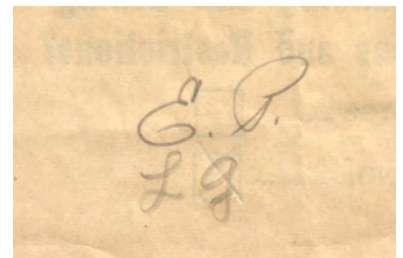
The ballot box with its key.

The only candidate for the Linwood constable was L.J. Valez. Constables were the immediate law enforcement in the community and they were called upon until the Sheriff or his deputies could arrive in case of emergency.

The ballot also carried a referendum question on building and zoning restrictions in the township.

The back of each ballot has initials from the election judges proving it was a valid ballot properly cast and counted.

The ballot box stayed in the Broadbent home until it was recently donated to ACHS so it could be preserved and its history shared.



The election judge initials on the back of one of the ballots.

1950 OFFICIAL BALLOT

LINWOOD TOWNSHIP
ANOKA COUNTY, MINNESOTA

TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 1950

Put a cross mark (X) opposite the name of the candidate for whom you wish to vote.

Vote For One	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For Supervisor for 3 years— LOGAN GRANT
	<input type="checkbox"/>	For Supervisor for 3 years— STANLEY F. WIEZYCKI
	<input type="checkbox"/>	For Supervisor for 3 years—
Vote For One	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For Town Clerk for 2 years— S. C. BROADBENT
	<input type="checkbox"/>	For Town Clerk for 2 years—
Vote For One	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For Constable for 2 years— L. J. VALEZ
	<input type="checkbox"/>	or Constable for 2 years—
Vote For One	<input type="checkbox"/>	For Justice of Peace for 2 years—

Shall the Town Board of Supervisors Adopt Building and Zoning Regulations and Restrictions?

YES

NO

One of the ballots cast in the 1950 election in Linwood.



The ballot box with its lid closed as voters would have seen it.

(Continued from page 1)

Lydia was the superintendant of a Sabbath school at the time, but that was not enough to hold her in their home on the farm. Noted in her records is a single line that may explain at least one reason why Lydia gave up the comforts of her home to follow the army: "By request of Captain John S. Cady." Cady was probably very well known in the small community, one reason why he was so successful in raising the company. Did he ask Lydia to be the Company's nurse because she had some special skills or because he knew her and or Charles? Lydia didn't tell us.

Applying to become a nurse was not as easy as it may seem, even if the captain requested her. Lydia had to make a petition to General Pope, then at Fort Snelling in St. Paul, for permission to follow the company. Whether Pope cared that his action might invite other women is not known, but he is noted as only giving Lydia verbal permission to accompany the regiment. No paper trail of his permission would haunt General Pope should his actions be questioned.

This took several months and it was December before Lydia set out across the frozen expanse of western Minnesota to join her company. She arrived at what was called the Chippewa Agency along the Crow Wing River and was immediately sent to the post hospital. The hospital was simply a room at the agency building and it was filled with 13 men suffering with the measles. The disease spread rapidly through the post until every man who had not previously had the measles came down with them. Lydia nursed them all and when the outbreak was over, she sent a message to Captain Cady, "All is well, not a man lost." Lydia's care was credited for cheating death out of its harvest from the outbreak.

Beyond nursing, Lydia participated in the "mental and moral improvement" of the men of Company A as directed by Captain Cady. He sent for books and established classes in several branches of learning in addition to Bible studies and prayer meetings. Lydia was a constant participant.

When the Company was ordered to move to Fort Ripley near Little Falls in April of 1863, Lydia followed. From her position at the rear of the company, she gathered all of the "footsore and sick soldiers who had dropped out of the ranks" and continued to work in the post hospital at Fort Ripley.

Captain Cady was killed in a confrontation with the Dakota

Indians in the summer of 1863 and the leadership of Company A went to another Anokan, Marcus Butterfield. Lydia continued to serve as nurse when the company was ordered to Fort Abercrombie in the Dakota Territory that next winter. By spring, her health was nearly broken and she needed a rest. Lydia returned to Anoka and remained there as the company continued their patrol of the frontier and struggles with the Dakota Indians. In the fall, the regiment went South, but Lydia did not accompany them. She waited in Anoka for Charles to return.

When the war was over and Charles came back to her, Lydia had to draw on every nursing skill she had as he was very ill. Many believed he would not survive, but Lydia's care kept Charles alive until 1886, though he was declared an invalid and was not able to work for years before his death.

Even before Charles passed away, Lydia joined the local chapter of the Woman's Relief Corps (WRC). This organization was involved with seeking care for veterans, their widows and orphans. It was to be an organization to which Lydia would give many years of her life and substantial amounts of her own money.

She remarried in 1887 to another veteran, Captain James George, and since he was very involved with the veterans organizations, Lydia continued her deep involvement with the WRC. She was elected president of the Minneapolis Chapter, then she was elected as the WRC Department head for Minnesota where she traveled through the state visiting chapters and checking on their progress. It was while involved with the WRC that Lydia took up the cause of pensions for Army nurses. Throughout the 1880s, this issues was debated at local, state and national levels, but by 1892, Lydia—and all former Army nurses--were able to apply for their own pensions as army nurses.

Lydia's second husband died in 1891 and several years later, she married again, another veteran by the name of Rufus Whitmore. Their marriage only lasted a few years before Rufus, too, passed away.

When Lydia died in 1914, the Minneapolis newspaper carried a lengthy obituary for her, noting many of her accomplishments. It concluded with a bit of prose that read: "Not dead, but only promoted. She has entered the Order above and there, 'neath the smiles of the Master, she will finish her labor of love." Lydia was laid to rest in Elk River's Orono Cemetery beside her first love, Charles Hancock.

2011 Holiday Ornament from Andover

City officials and community members from Andover will present the 2011 Holiday Ornament for the County on Tuesday evening, December 6, 2011, at 7:00 p.m., at the Anoka County History Center.

This holiday season is the 16th Annual "Anoka County Holiday Tree" celebration at the Anoka County Historical Society. Just as states are invited to provide the National Christmas Tree in Washington, each community in Anoka County is invited in turn to provide an ornament for the County Tree. Each ornament reflects a unique aspect of its community, along with the year of presentation. The Andover ornament will not be shown to anyone until the ornament is presented on December 6th.

The evening will also feature a fun history talk about the history of COOKIES! Bring a few of your favorite cookies to share while we all learn (and sample) some of the stories behind the sweet treats of the season! The lobby holiday exhibit will also look at holiday baking and all that goes with it.

Come see the Andover ornament, bring cookies to share in our Holiday Cookie History, and have a great time!



The 2010 ornament from Lexington.

Thank You to Sock Hop Supporters

We had a great time at the ACHS Sock Hop in Columbia Heights on Friday, October 7. While the total amount of money raised doesn't compare some of our fundraisers from several years ago, we are still happy to announce that we raised over \$6,500 for the evening.

About 100 people attended, bid on great silent auction packages, danced to the music of the 1950s and '60s



2011 ACHS Hula Hoop Champ, Sophie Clark.

as performed by the TC Cats, and enjoyed the venue that is Murzyn Hall. We crowned our second ACHS Sock Hop Hula Hoop Champion when Sophie Clark outlasted four other competitors.

Given the current financial climate, we are grateful for all of the support we do get. In past years we typically raised over \$4,000 for each event with just sponsorships alone. This year, we welcomed Northeast Bank and Community Pride Bank on as sponsors, but were unable to secure others. We appreciate the contributions of this year's sponsors.

We couldn't have made it happen without them.



Guests bid on silent auction items at the Sock Hop.

We continued to receive terrific support from local businesses, organizations, and friends in putting together a great silent auction. The contributors are listed on page 7 of the newsletter, but it's worth noting many of these contributors are small, local businesses. They are your friends and neighbors and are making an effort to support our mission to preserve local history by donating to our event. They receive lots of similar requests and simply cannot grant them all. It is very gratifying to receive their support. Please support them as well.

Members of the ACHS board will be getting together in November to discuss what we will do for a fundraising event next year. If you have any thoughts on the matter, please call the History Center at 763-421-0600.

There is still room for your name!

Write Your Name in History (On a quilt!)

And benefit the Anoka County History Center

Just as was done during the Civil War, you can sign your name to a replica Sanitary Commission style quilt that will be raffled off to raise money for keeping history.

Signature patches are for sale and with each patch, the signer receives a raffle ticket to win the completed quilt, the drawing held in 2012.

Signature Patches

Signers can choose between three sizes of plain muslin patches:

2" x 2" Patch — \$3.00 donation

Half Diamond — \$10.00 donation

Multiple signatures allowed

9" x 9" Patch — \$15.00 donation

Multiple signatures allowed

Raffle Tickets

Tickets are \$1.00 each
or 6 for \$5.00.

The winner will be
drawn in 2012.

All proceeds benefit the
Anoka County
Historical Society



*There are some squares left—even one
right next to Governor Dayton's signature!
Get your square before they're gone!*

Up To Date

Announcements and News

♦Just a reminder that the November 10 and December 8 ACHS Board of Directors meetings will be at 6:00 p.m. All meetings are held at the History Center. Board meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome.

Greetings Volunteers!

By Elaine Koehn

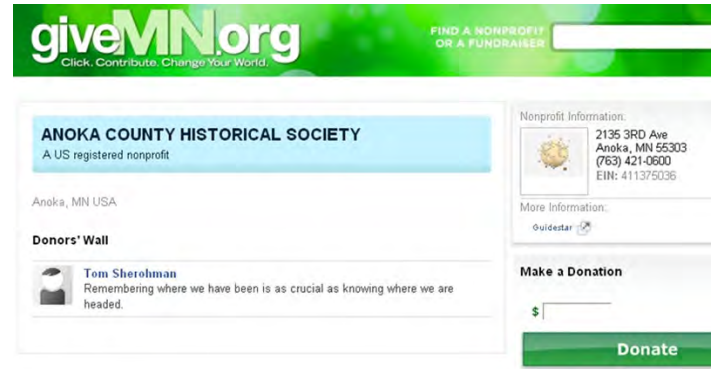
Autumn is winding down and the Ghosts of Anoka tour hit record numbers! More than 65 tours were scheduled for October alone, with an additional 21 since May for a total of 81 Ghost Tours this year! Our incredible volunteer tour guides have made it all possible: June Anderson, Jeri Bates, Darlene Bearl, Wayne Chevalier, Sara Given, Gary Greb, Faith Kammerdiener, Maria King, Roxy Orcutt, Lynne Rickert, Dan Schink, Shana Schmitz, Teri and Chris Ningen, Ann Steen, and Joni Strandquest. Because tours average 24-26 people each, it is clear that the Ghosts of Anoka tours are an effective outreach! A heartfelt thank you goes out to each tour guide!

I would also like to extend a special thank you to Rose Marie Stiener and Carol Dordan for alterations on costumes for the tour guides.

Tour guides also helped out with the Cemetery tours—of which there were eight! Maria King, June Anderson, Pam Sevenbergen, Shana Schmitz and Madonna Mochinski portrayed living characters, with Todd and Maria also leading tours.

Upcoming events include the Dolly and Me Teas scheduled for Thursday, December 1st at 6:00pm; Saturday, Dec. 3rd at 10am and 2:00pm. The teas will repeat on Thursday, December 15th 6:00pm and Saturday, December 17th at 10am and at 2:00pm. We will explore the 1930's through the eyes of a young child growing up at a time when the Great Depression was bearing down on all. Little girls will decorate an angel ornament for the holidays and then have tea and dessert. Finally, the girls will sign up for the drawing of two outfits for their dolls. This is made possible by the volunteers who have sewn and donated the outfits for that purpose.

Finally, I would like to welcome our new volunteers; Andrew Pixley, Rebecca Johnson, Anna Kirchner, Carolyn Waataja, Madonna Mochinski, and Roxy Orcutt. Thank you for sharing your time and talent at ACHS.



Minnesota's "Give to the Max Day" Returns on November 16

Minnesota's nonprofit organizations ask Minnesotans to give to their favorite charities at GiveMN.org during the third annual "Give to the Max Day" on Nov. 16, with hopes of raising as much money as possible for nonprofit organizations in 24 hours (starting at midnight on Nov. 16 through midnight on Nov. 17).

The Anoka County Historical Society is a part of "Give to the Max Day" and we are encouraging everyone to support the preservation of local history by making a special donation on November 16 through the Give MN program. GiveMN has raised more than \$33 million for more than 5,000 nonprofits since its 2009 debut. Last year's "Give to the Max Day" drew an astounding 42,596 donors. As a result, more than \$10 million was raised for the 3,663 participating nonprofit organizations.

"We are proud that Minnesotans come together on this giving holiday to show their support for the nonprofit and education institutions that work within our communities," said Dana Nelson, executive director of GiveMN.org. "Minnesota is truly a leader in giving, and Give to the Max Day has shown our unparalleled generosity to the world."

GiveMN offers several incentives to encourage nonprofit organization and donor participation in "Give to the Max Day." There is a new leaderboard structure with three tiers of prize grants. A \$15,000, \$10,000 and \$7,500 prize grant will be awarded to the top three nonprofit organizations (colleges and universities excluded) which receive the most dollars during "Give to the Max Day." \$5,000 prize grants will be awarded to nonprofits in 4th through 10th place on the main leaderboard.

Throughout the event, an individual donor will be randomly chosen every hour to have an additional \$1,000 given to the charity that received the donor's original donation. In addition to the 24 "Golden Tickets"—\$1,000 prize grants given randomly every hour—one \$10,000 "Grand Golden Ticket" will be randomly given at 11:59 p.m.

Contributions & New Members — Thank you

(All lists are current to October 31, 2011)

DONATIONS

Lyle & Jerene Anderson
Community Pride Bank
Bruce Gengnagel
Mary Ann Hoffman
Sandra Karasch
Robert Koehler & Virginia Koehler-Barnier
Becky Loader & Michael Ritchie
Charlene Moran
Glenda Meixell
Robert & Marveen Minish
Donna Smith
Eugene & Monica Swieringa

EMPLOYEE MATCH

Ameriprise Financial/Dan Frank

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Earlene Solmonson
From Gwen Quick

ARTIFACT DONORS

Coon Rapids Historical Commission
Dave Drevdahl
Lucille Elrite
Bill & Leann Rock
Bernice Salo
Rosalyn Sroga
Barbara Broadbent Ulvin
Mary Vavrosky

NEW MEMBERS

Teresa Adams, Monona, WI
Bruce Gengnagel, Cottage Grove
Launa Johnson, Anoka
Paula Mohr, Anoka
Charlene Moran, Anoka
Kevin & Erin Steadland, Andover

IN-KIND DONATIONS

(SOCK HOP)

All About Cats and Dogs
AmericInn Wabasha
Jan Anderson
Marilyn Anderson
Anoka Coin, Stamp & Watch
Anoka County Parks and Recreation
Anoka Hennepin Credit Union
Anonymous
Dan Baker
Billy's Bar & Grill (Anoka)
Billy's Neighborhood Bar & Grill
(St. Francis)

BOB FM

Casa Rio
Casey's General Store
Chema Malu
Chili's
Shirley Christenson
Columbia Heights Sister City Program
Connexus Energy
Costco Wholesale
County Market (Andover)
County Market (St. Francis)
Dahlheimer Beverages
El Toro
Federal Cartridge
Fifth Avenue Dental
Financial One Credit Union
Gould's Diamonds & Jewelry
Grand Casino
Green Valley Greenhouse
Hair Designers of Blaine
Hakanson Anderson
Ham Lake Lanes
Mike Hartley
Heights Bakery
Heights Theater
Jam Hops Gymnastic, Dance and Cheer
Donald Johnson
Mike and Maria King

Krista Artista
Orville Lindquist
Little Havana Tobacco
Lyric Arts Company of Anoka
Todd Mahon and Nicole Theis-Mahon
Mansetti's Pizza and Pasta
Minnesota Twins Baseball Club
Mobile Entertainment
Muller Family Theaters
Napa Auto Parts
National Eagle Center
Noodles and Company
Nowthen Historical Power Association
Oliver Kelley Farm-Minnesota Historical Society
Party Papers
Al and Betty Pearson
Paul and Mary Pierce
Red Ox Café
The Refuge Golf Club
Round Barn Potting Company
Rum River Hills
Rum River Inn
Running Aces Harness Track
St. Francis True Value
Shorewood Bar and Grill
SportClips
Ray Steinke
Shannon Steven
Subway
Lael Theis
Sandy Thorsen
Catherine Vesley
Bart and Ellen Ward
Vickie Wendel
Terry Yackel

The Anoka County Historical Society extends our sincere sympathy to the families of:

Henry (Red) Johnson, who died on August 7, 2011. Red was a long, long time member of ACHS, past volunteer, and donor, with great history of his own that he freely shared.

Quinley Free, who died August 8, 2011. Quin was a long-time member of ACHS and a regular attendee at our events for many years.

Marjorie Strouse, who died September 6, 2011. Marjorie was and ACHS member and shared many of her artifacts and stories.

Alice Wagner, who died September 6, 2011. Alice was a world traveler, active community member and loyal ACHS member.

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Coming Events

November 12, 2:00 pm

Tastes and Sound of Minnesota in the Civil War

(Rum River Library, 4201 6th Avenue N., Anoka.) Join us in a lively program that looks at Minnesota (and Anoka County's) role in the Civil War. This program looks at the adventures, disappointments, fears and daily life of troops during these troubling years and will provide a basic understanding of the Civil War from a Minnesota point of view. FREE

November 23, Noon — 1:00 pm

Celebrating PIE!

(Anoka County History Center and Library.) Bring your favorite holiday pie for all to sample as we share stories and history about this holiday favorite! Many people will be baking pies for the big meal the next day; so bake one early, take a break and join us for some fun history about pies.. This is a roundtable discussion where everyone is welcome to share their stories about PIES. FREE

December 1, 3, 15 & 17

Dolly and Me Christmas Tea

(Anoka County History Center and Library.) Come to the History Center for a tea party! We will explore the 1930's through the eyes of a young child growing up at a time when the Great Depression was bearing down on all. Little girls will decorate an angel ornament for the holidays. Girls, their dolls, and the grown-ups share a tea party to wrap up the event. *Reservations required.* Tickets for girls are \$7, adults are \$10—and dolls attend free! Thursday teas start at 6:00 pm, Saturday teas are at 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.

December 6, 7:00 p.m.

Holiday Ornament Presentation & Cookie History

(Anoka County History Center and Library.) Join ACHS for the 16th annual Holiday Ornament presentation featuring the new ornament from the City of Andover. Bring a few of your favorite holiday cookies to share while we talk about the history of holiday cookies (and eat some!). There'll be a new lobby exhibit featuring cookies and all that goes with holiday baking! It's a great way to kick off the holiday season! See page 4 for more details. FREE

December 10, 10:30-1:30

A Civil War Christmas

(Rum River Library, 4201 6th Avenue N., Anoka.) What was this celebration like in Anoka County in the 1860s? Did they put up a tree in their homes? Did they send gifts to the soldiers serving in the Civil War? Come to this special event to learn more about one of America's favorite holidays with hands-on activities and lots of holiday history. FREE