



Anoka County
Historical Society



HISTORY 21

Volume 48 No.1 January-February 2018

We love history yes we do, we love history how 'bout you?

AnokaCountyHistory.org

History 21 (in honor of the 21 cities in Anoka County) is published by the Anoka County Historical Society six times yearly as a member benefit. The ACHS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible within the allowable limits of the law.

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Table of Contents:

- 3 - Letters from the ACHS
President and Director
- 4 - Private James Groat's Travels
- 8 - Collections Corner:
Desert Storm Cards
- 9 - Kick-off Fundraiser
- 10 - Guilty Verdict!
Mock Trial a success
- 12 - Volunteer World:
Amazing Volunteers
- 14 - Thank You to Our
Supporters
- 15 - Upcoming Events

Front Cover: Superior Cleaners, located at 544 Summit St, Columbia Heights. January 1967.

Object ID#: 162.1.01



From the President

The holidays have passed and 2018 has begun. Time to start our diets, play with our presents and put all the holiday décor away.

Before we leave them behind completely, it is worth looking closer at a holiday tradition that elicits mixed reactions – and it is NOT fruitcake.

It is the “holiday letter.” Many folks love to get them and many love to hate them.

I have several friends who send me letters . . . some are delightful and some are downright obnoxious. In some I read well-crafted accounts of the adventures of my friends. In some I get to see photos of children I have never met but find myself looking forward to following their progress as each year – and letter – passes.

In others, I read of every possible ache and pain or anticipate (with dread) listings of impossibly perfect vacations and embellished accomplishments of every kid in the family.

All letters, whatever their tone, tell the stories of the year that has passed. Those stories are important – they are touchpoints of how people live. However pleasant or putrid, they are worth saving.

ACHS keeps an archive of holiday letters from families around Anoka County. If you’ve send a holiday letter, considering adding us to your list for next year’s edition (and perhaps print out one more of the one you just sent). We want to add your family stories to the collection.

May your 2018 be blessed and may your accomplishments be worthy of next year’s letter.

Orville Lindquist, ACHS President



From the Director

Wise people say the first year on the job, you watch; the second you plant seeds; the third you implement change. I'm happy to announce the Board of Directors will embark on a journey of strategic planning for ACHS in February. This retreat will provide an opportunity for tradition and dreams to meet and meld to create an encouraging plan for the next five and 10 years.

I'm excited to take the lessons learned from experiments in programming, fundraising, and exhibits last year and apply the best parts of each moving forward. Our staff has analyzed our collective strengths and challenges, adapting tasks to better fit personalities and natural skills. We have identified voids and will take this opportunity to creatively fill them so that ACHS continues to serve as a leader in the world of local history.

Thank you for being a part of this journey. We will certainly keep you informed during this process!

Rebecca Ebnet-Mavencamp, Executive Director



PRIVATE JAMES GROAT

James W. Groat was the great-grandson of John Groat, who immigrated to the United States from Germany in the 1700s, eventually settling in upstate New York. The Groat family remained in that general area, with each generation moving a little further away. James was born in 1824, and four years later his parents moved the family to Oneida Lake in Oswego County. Married and with children of his own by the age of 30, James took his family west, first heading for North Prairie, Wisconsin. He didn't find the land suitable, so the family pressed on to St. Paul in the mid 1850s, where his wife Rebecca waited with their children while Groat headed north. He reached Anoka in October, and found "the place suited me better than any section of the country I had struck in the west." Rebecca and the children arrived there on October 17, 1854, and with a few temporary exceptions, Anoka became home.

Groat became immediately involved in Anoka society. A carpenter by trade, he began building the first hotel (seen above) in Anoka, owned by Silas Farnham. Shortly thereafter, Groat and a few other men formed a company to run a ferry between Anoka and Champlin across the Mississippi, since the service didn't exist prior to that time. Groat even built the ferry boat itself for this venture.

Groat tried farming in a few different places around Anoka before finally building a house in Slaughter and Creighton's Addition in 1857. The family lived happily together for several years, but the 1860 election of Abraham Lincoln increased tensions between the North and the South. Groat didn't seem surprised by the outbreak of hostilities in April, 1861, signing up as one of the first volunteers from Anoka. As a Union soldier, Groat began three years of journeying which took him far from home. He was one of many; out of the 320 adult men in Anoka County who were eligible to serve in the Army, 97 percent, or 309 individuals, did so.

The journey began on foot, with the volunteers marching to Fort Snelling and

joining Company C of the First Minnesota. This Regiment mustered for duty on April 28, 1861 and has the distinction of being the first troops raised by Minnesota for Civil War service. Not only that, they were one of the first regiments anywhere in the Union to enter national service, appearing in Washington D.C. by July 4th, 1861.

Initially given orders to relieve another regiment at Fort Ripley near Little Falls, the men walked as far as Sauk Rapids before a messenger arrived to order them back to Fort Snelling: they were being sent to Washington and the front. That journey was accomplished in large part by boat and train, aside from a brief march through the city of Baltimore, Maryland, which was not friendly to the Union. While a previous regiment had met with violence, the First Minnesota received respectful treatment; Groat reports that “The only hostile demonstration that we encountered was that of a lady leaning over the balcony above us on one of the streets with a miniature rebel flag projecting from her bosom.”

While serving with the First Minnesota, Groat accumulated many interesting stories. The fact that he was not allowed to assist fellow Union soldiers at the Battle of Balls Bluff made Groat angry (he refers to the battle as a “slaughter” and considered General Stone to be a “rank traitor”), though he continued to hold a picket line along the north bank of the Potomac River throughout the winter of 1861-1862. Another group of Union soldiers, the 82nd New York, suffered many casualties from Confederate soldiers across the river due to their “buck and ball” muskets. These weapons could not shoot across the river, so the Confederates could stand openly on the bank and pick off the Union soldiers. The regiment’s commander, General Gorman, sent in several of the First Minnesota (who all carried newer, Springfield rifles) at night.

“The rebels next morning at break of day lined the bank of the river, looking for heads of the boys in the rifle pits and at a given signal the Minnesota boys pulled triggers, down went some eight or ten of the enemy,” recalled Groat. “Some tall running followed and in a few moments not a rebel could be seen on the opposite bank of the river.”

Groat said the following day the Confederates came under a flag of truce and “begged of us to cease picket firing, for they considered it a barbarous practice....” This struck Groat as rather hypocritical, but the two sides reached an agreement to end the sniping for the rest of the winter.

The following spring, in March of 1862, the First Minnesota seized the town of Berryville from Confederate cavalry. They found that the “proprietor of a disloyal sheet decamped, leaving his paper half printed with glorious Confederate victories. The printers of our regiment worked all night setting up type and printing the other half with glorious Union victories, and it was issued to the Brigade in the morning.”

On April 12, Groat woke up under his





“little dog tent... with my feet sticking out in the mud and frozen fast.” He freed his feet, at which point he discovered his shoes also frozen to his socks! Fortunately, he warmed his feet and didn’t suffer any permanent damage. He also met his brother, George Groat, on May 25 “while both looking for a chance to bathe in clear water, as most of the water along the [Chickahominy] river was too slimy and dirty

for even a moccasin snake.” Unfortunately, this marked the last time James and his brother would meet: George was killed at the Battle of Malvern Hill not long thereafter.

Groat stayed with the First Minnesota through the Battle of Antietam in September, 1862. In October, he transferred to Company A of the U.S. Engineers due to a disagreement with his captain. Although he missed his friends in the First, he wrote that “I have never regretted the change for I felt more at home in that army of the service.” During this part of the year, Groat also mentions a man coming down from Minnesota to bring ballots to all of the Minnesota men who were in service so they could vote in the election that year.

“After receiving my vote Mr. Genks handed me a nice package from my wife, which I prized much,” wrote Groat.

Company A (seen above) moved frequently, constructing infrastructure needed to keep the Union Army mobile, despite weather conditions such as those of January, 1863. Groat said they marched through “one of the worst rain storms... that I ever saw, it seemed to come down in sheets and no cessation for forty eight hours. The whole country became one vast sea of mud and water...” He describes “wagons settled down in the mire up to the axles” and “mules in the mire so deep that nothing but ears could be seen. The poor creatures were cut out of the team and left to die.”

Of the three field visits made by President Lincoln, Groat recalls the happiest as occurring on April 8, 1863, when “the whole arm[y] of the Potomac fell in line for the grand review.”

“The line was over four miles long, two, and some of the way, four ranks deep,” Groat described. “That vast line of blue, with bright bayonets fixed, was grand to behold, and as President Lincoln passed down our front a lusty cheer when up from a hundred thousand loyal throats.”

Not long after this review, Groat found himself once again back on the front lines near Fredericksburg for the Battle of Chancellorsville; his battalion had put up a bridge, but soon the Army of the Potomac was pulling out of the area to the northern shore of the river. Groat, waiting on the south shore to cut the ropes of the bridge, had a close

encounter with a Confederate soldier.

“...a tall confederate soldier came within a few feet of me and brought his musket down to 'order arms,'" recalled Groat. “After looking at each other a moment, the order came, 'cut the ropes', I was not many moments severing every cord, and the current soon carried the bridge and myself to the other shore [many of these were floating bridges]. I breathed easier then. Why the rebel did not shoot me, or take me prisoner, is more than I can tell.”

Groat’s battalion stayed on the move and were involved in many battles over the following months. In late November of 1863, they were ordered “to march to Ely’s Ford and throw a pontoon bridge.”

“We reached Ely’s Ford at dawn the next day...,” said Groat. “We took no rations with us, supposing our supply train would follow us, but no supplies came. The enemy [was] hovering around and our quartermaster dare not venture to bring us food. There we lie three days and four nights without anything to eat.”

By December 1, they marched back to their previous camp at Germania Ford to get food, but Groat said “I never fully realized before the terrible gnawing of hunger.”

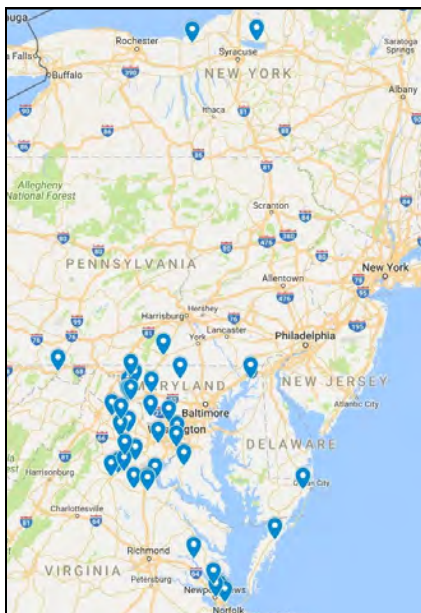
As 1864 opened, the tide of the war had started to shift and Groat’s service approached its end. One of the last jobs he recounts was “fix[ing] up things generally” around General Ulysses S. Grant’s new headquarters near Brandy Station in Virginia.

“Among the improvements I made on that tented field was a rough board shanty sixteen by twenty feet, and a table, I think, ten by thirteen feet,” recalled Groat. “This table was built in the shanty for the purpose of receiving a map of the same size to be shaded by an Italian Artist. This map embraced all the territory south of the Potomac and Ohio rivers to the coast line, and was designed to aid Grant in his great and last campaign.”

Groat had a quiet last two months in the service. He mustered out with an honorable discharge and a good recommendation from his commander on April 28, 1864, though he turned down an offer of a commission should he stay. On hearing “Revillee” sounding on that last morning, he says, “It was sweet music to me as I knew it to be my last one in the service.”

“The eighteen months that I served with the U.S. Engineers were full of adventure and danger which just suited me,” said Groat. “I was slightly wounded three times, and suffered sickness nigh unto death many times, was in seventeen pitched battles and many skirmishes, but have never regretted my service to my country.”

Groat recounted spending at least one night at 81 different locations over the course of his service, in addition to each individual battlefield. We are fortunate to have Groat’s memoir, written in 1889 based on diaries he kept for 30 years. Groat passed away in 1895, just a few weeks shy of his 71st birthday. He was survived by his wife, three of his sons, and grandchildren.



Desert Storm Collector's Cards

Although the Gulf War did not have the same impact on home front life as WWII in terms of rationing or sacrifices asked of the general population, it was nevertheless a conflict much in the public eye and mind.

Stacy Wendel, Coon Rapids, was all too aware of the reason for her Marine Corps father's absence. When several trading card companies began to put out sets of cards relating directly to the Gulf War in 1990, Stacy started collecting them. Of her cards that made it to ACHS, three different sets are represented. In total during that period, 10 different manufacturers each produced a set of Desert Storm trading cards.



The largest part of Stacy's collection was the set of Desert Storm Cards by Pro Set. 250 cards in total, they came in their own box decorated with the flags of the countries involved in the conflict. The cards themselves have tan camouflage backgrounds, with images and brief titles on the front, and short descriptions on the back providing more information about the subject of that card (for example, "Military Police"). The subjects ranged from Geography, Leaders, Intelligence Files, Governments, and Military Assets. This was the largest single set of Desert Storm cards produced by any manufacturer.

Also represented in Stacy's collection are a few cards produced by Spectra Star in 1991. Although intended to eventually be a full set of 300 cards, only the first 60 or so were ever produced. These cards were divided into five categories: Troops, Armor, Weapons, Aircraft, and Ships. The cards (see example below) have black and white backs with short descriptions of the subject; the fronts are primarily taken up with images, and have red, white, and blue borders.

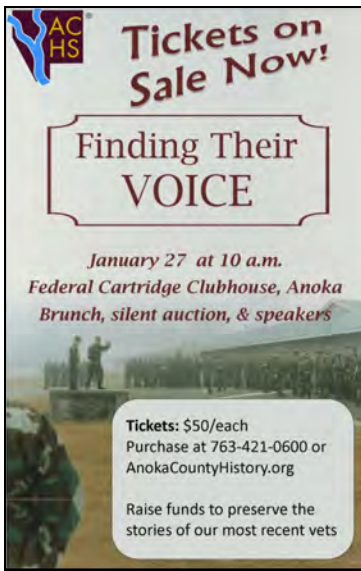
The Desert Storm trading cards were popular in 1990 and 1991; manufacturers and retailers alike had trouble keeping them stocked. Unlike the baseball cards which were the main product of many of these card companies, the Gulf War had a broader audience and therefore (temporarily) broader sales. Stacy was one of many who wanted the information that the cards provided.



.....

For anyone who is interested in these cards and other similar sets, this website seemed to be a good source of both information and sets of the cards themselves:

www.desertstormcards.com



A SPECIAL PROJECT KICK-OFF

Please join us on January 27th at 10 a.m. at the Federal Cartridge clubhouse building in Anoka to kick-off a preservation project of our most recent veterans.

The fundraising brunch will feature Major General Jon Trost, who served 41 years with the National Guard before retiring. He will speak of his experiences in the military, as well as the importance of preserving this newest group of veterans in the historic record.

Trost received several awards during his career including the Army Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster and Army Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster.

Funds raised at this event will support the History Center as they embark on this project to collect oral histories from local veterans who have served during the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, and Bosnia. From the oral histories, the Anoka County Historical Society will build an exhibit in the museum as well as an online exhibit to showcase the stories collected. The Historical Society hopes to also collect artifacts, memorabilia, and photographs from families with service people during this time. These donations will also have a place in the exhibit hall and be digitally preserved as part of an online gallery.

Federal Cartridge has donated camping and hunting equipment for the silent auction, as well as use of the clubhouse. A brunch menu is planned for guests to enjoy as well as social time and a parade of uniforms through American history. The Anoka

Legion Post will present the colors and special recognition Awards will be given.

Tickets are limited, so advanced reservations are required. Visit the History Center in person, by phone, or on the web to purchase yours for \$50 today. Sponsorships are still available for businesses and individuals to support the History Center beginning at \$250.





FRED PRICE CONVICTED (AGAIN) IN MURDER OF MARY FRIDLEY PRICE!

A hush fell over the jury gathered in the room as the Judge's gavel fell with a heavy thud onto the bench. *This court is now called to order!* In this particular court at the History Center, on this particular night of December 14, an unsuspecting jury hunched over plates of chicken and green beans while witnesses ran lines in their heads.

"It was a delight and a privilege to be able to entertain people while bringing an historical court case to life while supporting the mission of the Historical Society," said cast member Andi Sherek.

The murder case was that of Mary Fridley Price, who died from a head wound during a fall. The historical event occurred in 1914, on an evening after Mary had enjoyed the theater with her husband, Fred Price. After the accident, he would claim she dashed after her dog, Chum, and plummeted down a ravine near the Town and Country Club along the Mississippi River. His best friend, Charles Etchison would back up his story for a year, before coming forward as the only witness to a very different tale.

As Judge Fish (Tony Palumbo) called witnesses to the stand, the Bailiff (Buzz Netkow) swore them in. The Prosecution (Terri Melcher) and Defense (John Huberty) proceeded to craft the story of the fateful night from each of the narratives. The doctor (Sherek) testified that Fred (Nick Severson) insisted on riding in the ambulance to the hospital after the fall, but also pointed out Fred found comfort from his grief that night with his mistress, Carrie (Christina Loechler).

The Private Investigator (Sherek) hired by Mary's father, David Price (Fridley Mayor Scott Lund) and Park Board Commissioner (Wally Wysopal) admitted the cliff in question was steep and quite dangerous. They added that the distance covered by



Mary's body couldn't have occurred without a good deal of propulsion. Help, it seems, that could have come from Fred.

Fred's second wife, Grace Swartz (Robyn Thanghe) said she often feared for her life and filed for divorce as a result. The defense, however, noted that no formal charges had ever been filed.

Much of the case hinged on the eye-witness testimony of Fred's best friend, Charles Etchison (Steve Florman). Charles claimed he witnessed Fred planning the murder, as well as hearing the "thud" of a rock hitting the side of Mary's skull.

The defense used this change of story to paint Charles as a liar. Was this not grounded in a deal to reduce his own role as an accomplice and broker a deal with law enforcement?

The flamboyantly dressed Carrie testified to Fred's many gifts and kindness. She showed little shame in her role as mistress, expressing her love for the man who had, during the ensuing year, since become her husband. However, when the prosecuting attorney (Melcher) asked how she lived with the knowledge of Fred's two prior marriages, Carrie's adoration turned to surprise and distaste at the news. Her shock grew when it became known that his first divorce was never actually finalized.

Fred tried to reinforce the idea that the whole incident was an accident. He didn't need her father's money, nor the lifestyle they lived, just her gentle self, he insisted. The antics of her ghost (Sara Given) however, showed the jury HER version of the story. The jury especially enjoyed how she kept her dog, Chum, from attacking him.

Historically, Fred Price received a first degree murder conviction and spent the remainder of his life in prison. His friend, Charles, had the murder charges dropped and was never tried for his part of the crime.



Top: Fridley Mayor Scott Lund and City Manager Wally Wysopal pose prior to the show. Middle: A scornful ghost of Mary Fridley Price (Sara Given) listens to the testimony of mistress Carrie Olson (Christina Loechler). Bottom: Court sketch artist Catherine Vesley recorded the event throughout the night, selling her work to attendees for a donation.



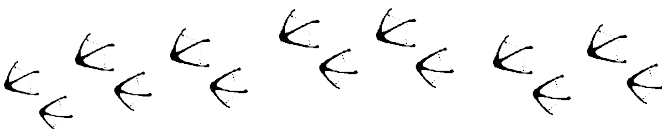
Volunteers—our gift throughout the year!

This Holiday season, as people made the mad dash into stores to do last minute shopping, obsessively checked the tracking status on online orders, or sat smug in the knowledge that all their gift purchases were done, we at ACHS celebrated a different gift: YOU. Yes, it’s corny, and I can feel you rolling your eyes at me, but that doesn’t diminish its truth.

Our volunteers don’t save their gifts for one day a year, they give so much of themselves throughout the year.

We rely on our volunteers for help greeting visitors, answering phones, organizing collection items, doing research and writing for the local papers, and also for mundane things like doing dishes, trolling months on end in the newspaper looking for a hidden gem, or mailings (see more on this on the next page). The bottom line is: our volunteers help us share the amazing history of our County, and bring smiles to our faces. You are the best!

Sara Given
Volunteer Coordinator
Sara@AnokaCountyHistory.org



SUPER HERO VOLUNTEER DAY!

At the end of November I sent out the Volunteer Bat Signal for help folding, stuffing and mailing our Annual Appeal letter. From an economic standpoint this letter is essential for balancing our budget, but also for letting people know about our project plans for the new year and how they can help.

We took over the Philolectian room and set up different stations around the room in our own ode to Henry Ford's production line—but with paper instead of car parts. We chatted, laughed, listened to music all while hands busily folded letters, stuffed envelopes, sealed envelopes or placed labels.

It was a collective effort and made me so grateful for the amazing human beings we have as volunteers. The morning crew tested the system and got a steady rhythm going. People joined and left throughout the day. Almost like it was choreographed, as the morning crew started flagging, and needed to head home

another batch of volunteers started walking in the door on their way home from work to take us over the finish line.

I can't say how much we appreciated all of your hard work that day, and how grateful we are to call you our friends and volunteers. THANK YOU to Linda, Marlys, Jill, Yvonne, Glenda, Joe, Dennie, Sandy, Shelly, Steve, Liz, Deb, Gloria, Lisa, Jessie, Grant, Al, and Betty.



Keep up with the Fun at ACHS!

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



Anoka County
Historical Society



AnokaCoHistory



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

Tuesday 10 a.m.—8 p.m.
 Wednesday-Friday 10 a.m.—5 p.m.
 Saturday 10 a.m.—4 p.m.

ACHS Board Meetings

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

Living Legacy: Memories that Stick to your Ribs

January 20, 2 p.m. at Northtown Library

Dusting off the old family cookbook and recipe cards has never been more fun! Join us to discover more about how you can use family recipes to honor traditions, tell stories, and still reflect on your modern situation. Come add to the living legacy that is both your past and your future.

January Fundraising Brunch: Finding Their Voice

January 27, 10 a.m. at the Federal Cartridge Clubhouse, Anoka

Tickets \$50. See page 11 for more details

A County Full of Growing Things

March 17, 2 p.m. at Rum River Library

Anoka County may not look like it now, but before the 1950s, this area had a strong agricultural economy. Join us as we explore these ideas, the Columbia Heights Garden Club, and the efforts of Marie DeGraff in this program.

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HISTORY 21

Volume 48 No.2 March-April 2018

History repeats itself...history repeats itself...history repea

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Table of Contents:

- 3 - Letters from the ACHS President and Director
- 4 - History through our recipes
- 7 - Annual Meeting Time Volunteer Celebration
- 8 - Collections Corner: Say Cheese!!!
- 9 - LIVE audience needed Thrivent donation opportunity
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Front Cover: Bill Wanamaker attempting to block a pass from Dale Miller. The referee is Jerry Raney. Probably an Anoka Alumni vs the Anoka High School basketball game. Game played at Anoka High School (current AMSA Fred Moore Campus) Ca. 1953. Object ID#: 485.4.13



From the President

Recently, the ACHS board began a process in strategic planning. We spent the best part of a Saturday with some skilled facilitators and took a deep look at our work – where we are at now and what goals we want to set for the next three – five years. This is challenging, but exciting. While there is still some fine-tuning to do, we have established five strong areas of focus for the next few years. We will be sharing those areas of focus in the near future and look forward to working with folks from all across Anoka County to do more – for more people, in more places, with more impact.

I am coming to the end of my term as Board President. As I reflect over the past two years, I am proud of this and so many other things we have accomplished. We have strengthened our governance, built a host of more transparent finance processes, and are working to tighten our operating policies. We do all of this on top of the great services ACHS provides every single day. Our great Board and amazing staff are working hard to take a great organization and make it even greater.

This is my last column. After our Annual Meeting in March, new officers take leadership roles and I step into the background. I will remain a board member, but the leadership baton passes to others. My time as President has been gratifying. I certainly learned a lot and hope I have done my part to leave things better than when I found them. My thanks to everyone for their support of me and for continued support for ACHS.

Orville Lindquist, ACMS President



From the Director

An interesting and somewhat rare opportunity fell in our laps as an organization the other day: to become a pilot site for a brand-new collections software that will link local history groups throughout the state.

While public use of this program, called Collective Access, remains a year or two out, staff will begin shifting collections data over immediately. ACHS has a front-row seat in creating the database structure and trouble-shooting with partner organizations to make this software exactly what we all need as museum professionals.

We are excited to help create a more accessible program so that patrons like yourself can search ACHS collections for research purposes not only during office hours, but from home, *at anytime of the day!*

Rebecca Ebnet-Mavencamp, Executive Director



LIVING LEGACY:

What better memories than that of a warm kitchen belonging to a bustling grandmother holding a cookie sheet in her hand, filled with doughy blobs and melted chocolate? Or perhaps frying fish, fresh caught that afternoon and filleted by the skilled hands of a grandfather? Or those special holidays where a tattered cookbook or recipe card saw the light of day once more, only to receive another splash of oil or dash of flour over the handwriting...but no matter because the tradition had become so ingrained, the memory brought forth the ingredients?

Who are you? Where do your people come from? How long have you been keeping traditions alive? Interestingly, America has become a place for historic cooking methods and recipes. Our immigrant ancestors came from a variety of homelands, packing their most cherished belongings and cooking traditions in trunks and suitcases. They proceeded to teach us how to cook, one generation at a time, and we didn't alter the recipes substantially. But those who remained in the homeland sure did! Those who venture overseas in search of relatives (both dead and alive) discover variations of familiar recipes, since the old ways have disappeared there.

According to the *Food Timeline* by Lynne Olver, "every group of people who settled in American contributed something special from their traditional cuisine to our national 'melting pot'."

She goes on to explain the impact of culture on American food is really a study in the original location, immigration patterns, economics and labor, adaptation, and business. In 1913, Ellis Island claimed to be the world's largest restaurant, serving detained immigrants a variety of foods, some familiar and some more surprising, including stews, white bread, and bananas. According to *Ellis Island Immigrant Cook Book*, by Tom Bernadin, these individuals could also purchase a box lunch of sausages, sandwiches, and fruit to take with them on the next leg of their journey.

Some recipes, like Schupfnudel, or Fingernudel, in German culture, tell a story before they even crossed the ocean to America. This “finger noodle” or thick dumpling, originates in the southern portion of the country, as well as Austria. It’s internationally known as Italian Gnocchi, yet takes on a few additional twists when it reaches the Scandinavian countries. Comprised mainly of flour and egg, finger noodles can also contain potatoes, if the vegetable had come to be grown in the region. The dough is rolled between the palms to form a snake-like shape, then fried in salt water or oil. Again, depending on the region, these noodles may be served as part of the main course with sauerkraut or sage and butter, or as a dessert dish with poppy seeds, sugar, and cinnamon. As this recipe travelled Europe, it even became part of festivals, served with fruits like apples and pears.



Finger noodles, or Schupfnudel, served with sauerkraut.

Waffles present another recipe that has shifted form as it travelled the world, reinventing itself as new ingredients became available or cooking methods changed. The breakfast item we trust to appear next to bacon on Saturday mornings generally comes either square or circular, depending on the iron used. Without the special iron to imprint the squares to catch the syrup, really...you’d just have a pancake. The Belgian waffle we know in America has dozens of cousins back home, extending through history to the Dutch and even French, as far back as 1100. Taking its origins from the communion wafer of the Roman Catholic tradition, the batter originally contained no leavening agent, though still received its shape from being pressed in a round iron. By the 16th Century, however, the deeply grooved pattern had emerged in art depictions of the food and by the next century, recipes giving specific proportions of ingredients were available. The first legislation regulating the establishment of bakeries occurred in 1560 by Charles IX, King of France.

In 1830, Belgium, a small but heavily populated country bordering on France, Germany, and Luxembourg, detached itself from the Netherlands and became an independent nation. The traditional Brussels waffle has a light texture and taste that comes from the yeast-leavened batter they are made from. They were introduced at the 1964 World’s Fair in New York City and were sold as “Bel-Gem Waffles,” which

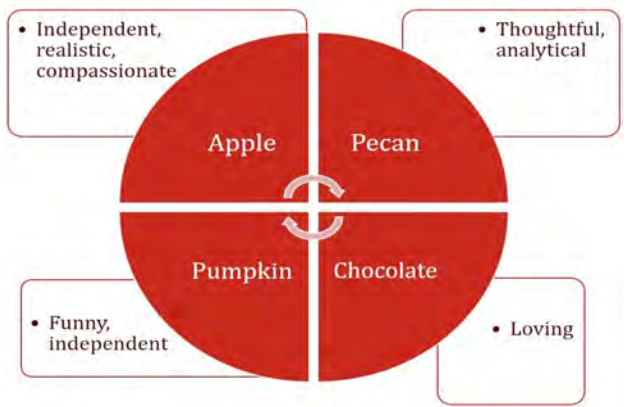


Liege waffles on display in Belgium.

catapulted them to popularity in America. One notable difference between the American style Belgian waffle and the Brussels waffle is the use of baking powder versus yeast, giving it a different texture and taste.

When compared with the Brussels style waffle, Liege waffles tend to be denser, a bit chewier, and sweeter, the dough more closely resembling a brioche style bread. Liege waffles are believed to

have been developed by Liege's Prince-Bishop's chef back in the 18th century. The signature element on a Liege waffle is pearl sugar, which comes from sugar beets, which caramelizes and sweetens when baked. A Liege waffle served fresh from a street vendor will have hot sugar and crispy edges that melt in your mouth.



Sometimes recipes evolve based on the needs of consumers more so than the ingredients available to the cook. Think, for instance, of the coal miners in Wales or the iron ore miners in northern Minnesota who relied on a meat-filled pastry with a sturdy crust to act as a handle for their work-worn hands at lunchtime. They would often come home to another type of filled pastry food...fruit pie.

The America Pie Council estimates that grocery stores sell \$700 million in pies each year. That doesn't include restaurants and bakeries sales, or those cooked at home. It also reports that the flavor favorites (after apple!) are: pumpkin, pecan, banana cream, and cherry. Just for fun, check out your "pie personality" on this page.

The collection of cookbooks held at ACHS preserve the type of comfort foods held dear by Anoka County residents. Mostly comprised of church publications, other organizations like 4-H and Anoka Halloween have also published their own books. What to do with common home garden plantings like rhubarb (or pie plant) and zucchini that grow abundantly fill many pages, as do potato dishes and a variety of meat-based meals. After WWII, when convenience foods became more available on

grocery store shelves, the recipes changed to include these items. Here, suggestions for Jell-O fruit salads, Campbell's Soup bakes, Rice Krispy bars, and even Velveeta fudge, became common.

What food traditions still live on in Anoka County? What makes your family special? What legacy comes to you through your cookbooks and recipe cards? Oh, and just in case you want to revive Velveeta Fudge—we've printed it here.

- 1 pound Velveeta cheese
- 1 pound margarine
- 1.5 cups of cocoa
- 4 pounds powdered sugar
- 1T vanilla
- chopped nuts optional



Melt Velveeta and margarine in microwave until blended, stirring every 1-1.5 mins. Mix in remaining ingredients, pour into buttered jelly roll pan. Freezes well.

Velveeta Fudge

© 2010 Vertex42.com

Join us!

ACHS ANNUAL MEETING

March 25, 2018

Gather with members and friends to reflect on another year of telling Anoka County's story. Explore the exhibit hall at Fridley Historical Society, get a sneak peek at the TWO garden tours this summer and enjoy special treats.

WHERE: Fridley Historical Society,
611 Mississippi St. N.E., Fridley

WHEN: March 25, 1 p.m.

FREE to all members



VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION!

Before we get any busier in the upcoming months, we want to take time to CELEBRATE all of our amazing volunteers who helped ACHS in 2017.

So ask yourself—did you represent ACHS at the County Fair, a festival, or on the Home and Garden Tour? Have you succumbed to our puppy dog eyes and moved tables, pounded nails, or stuffed envelopes? Or perhaps have you helped organize part of the collection with ACHS staff members. If so—YOU ARE INVITED! (Check your mail also—more specific invitations will be sent). We will have food, music and fun. From parlor games, to scavenger hunts with a heap of door prizes, come and enjoy an evening of friendship and relaxation on us.



When: April 19

Time: Open House 5:30 p.m.-8 p.m.

Where: Anoka History Center

Who: Our beloved ACHS friends

who have volunteered in 2017

RSVP requested



We are fortunate to have here at ACHS many items that, while not unique to the county, still help us to tell the story of Anoka County citizens and connect us with the larger story of the United States. A good example of this comes from a donation of cameras that we received in 2016. The fact that a local family purchased and used this equipment gives us good information about how national camera trends and manufacturers were relevant here.

The Johansen family of Anoka donated several Kodak brand cameras, which start with the Kodak Duaflex III (manufactured 1954-1957) and end with a Kodak FunSaver Weekend 35, a plastic-encased, disposable camera dated to the late 1980s to early 1990s. The Duaflex III is a “twin lens” camera (see above), which operated by opening a flap in the top so that the photographer could look down into the camera to see what they were about to photograph. This model is an interesting contrast to the viewfinder window that requires the photographer to hold the camera up to their eye to see the shot.

Another interesting camera from the Johansen family is the Kodak Colorburst 100 (manufactured 1978-1980, see below). If you have visited the *Farms to Flamingos* exhibit here at the museum, you have probably seen our 1978 Polaroid camera, famous for its “instant film” that could be pulled out of the camera and developed as it was exposed to air. The Colorburst 100 was Kodak’s version of an instant film camera, and the Johansens also donated the instruction manual and an unopened box of film that goes with it; a complete set. Kodak did not manufacture these cameras for very long, as they were successfully sued by Polaroid for copyright infringement starting in 1981.

Disposable film cameras, not unlike the Kodak FunSaver Weekend 35, are still readily available today, in spite of the prevalence of cell phone cameras. These cameras come pre-loaded with a roll of film, and when all the pictures have been taken, the whole camera goes to a photo shop so the film can be extracted and developed. Some are marketed specifically for use at weddings, and plastic-encased versions are aimed at travelers, just as they were when they were invented.

These cameras illustrate the variety of devices used during the suburban era and later.





EXCLUSIVE LIVE AUDIENCE EVENT!

MARCH 16, 10 A.M.

Liberty's Ladies: Minnesota's Great Women of the Great War

Women of "The Greatest Generation" are heralded as 'trailblazers' for the services they provided in World War II. Less known, are the 'pathfinders' of The Great War. Aided by the Red Cross, the United States actively recruited women to serve in a variety of capacities both at home and overseas. Using the War Records on

file at the Minnesota History Center, and County Historical resources, Johannes Allert highlights women from all walks of life who willingly stepped forward "to do their bit" in the "war to end all wars". Their service both during and after the war became the first stepping stone in women's rights and influenced their roles in the 20th Century and today.

QCTV will tape this program LIVE and you could be part of the audience! We can only seat the first 15 to RSVP to act quickly.

WHERE: QCTV Studios—12254 Ensign Ave N Champlin, MN 55316

TICKETS: FREE—must be reserved in advance at AnokaCountyHistory.org or at the Anoka History Center. Audience attendance limited to 15.



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GENERALLY SPEAKING, ACHS RAISES FUNDS FOR VETS PROJECT

Nearly 100 people gathered at the Federal Premium clubhouse in Anoka to enjoy a brunch meal served by Wells Catering and hear high-ranking military officials tell their stories.

The morning began with socializing, as guests explored the historic building. Displays depicting Federal Cartridge's production during WWII and items denoting the more recent conflicts in Iraq added a historic element to the event. Memorabilia from Vietnam Veteran Sam Hermanstorfer reminded those in attendance that our time is fleeting. Unfortunately, two military funerals were held that same day.

After a welcome by ACHS President, Orville Lindquist, the Anoka American Legion Post 102 presented the Honor Guard. Next, Lieutenant Colonel Lori Allert recounted her experiences during Desert Storm, saying at one point, they didn't know how long they would be activated.

"Indefinite." said Allert. "That word hit us like a hard punch to the gut. Our countdown calendars that we had started were now meaningless and thrown away. We wondered if we would be gone for years like soldiers in WW2. How will our families cope with this? Will they wait for us? How will we endure working 12-hour shifts 7-days a week for that period of time?"



The POW-MIA flag, rifle, helmet, and folded flag reminded guests that every service person has a story, though some can no longer tell it themselves.

Allert has served 27 years in the Army with deployments to Germany and Kuwait. She completed reserve overseas training tours in Germany, Korea, and El Salvador. Allert works as a Small Group Leader for Command and General Staff Officer's Course and a VA clinic nurse.

Major General Jon Trost retired after serving over 40 years, beginning with his draft during Vietnam. He taught at the Coon Rapids High School during his military career, in the Industrial Arts department.



Major General Jon Trost and Lieutenant Colonel Lori Allert shared a joke during the brunch.

“The Army is about soldiers and family,” said Trost. “When you boil it down, that’s what’s really important.”

Trost related his experience with the draft, which led to his career with the National Guard.

“I came back from a basketball game during the lottery for the draft [in 1970] about a quarter of six and saw my name on the fridge,” said Trost. “I was number 21. I got a beverage out of the fridge and called my Dad. He said to go to the National Guard Armory in the morning and get on the waiting list. From there, whichever door opened was where I was going.”

By gathering stories from Anoka County’s most recent veterans, ACHS will ensure another generation of service person has their experiences preserved. The museum archives contain little pertaining to the conflicts of the last 30 years. If you know of a service person willing to share their experience, please contact Rebecca@anokacountyhistory.org

Another thank you to our event sponsors:

- Federal Cartridge
- PSD Land Development
- Mary T Home, Health & Hospice Care
- BOB106 FM

Contributing sponsors:

- Anoka American Legion Post 102
- Erhart & Elfelt, LLC
- The Paul Ekstrom Team—KW Realty
- Quad Cities Television (QCTV)
- Vietnam Veterans, chapter 470

Silent auction donors:

- Federal Cartridge
- Chema Malu
- Smithe Promotional Group
- Terry Overracker Plumbing



ACHS Remembers



To those members, volunteers, friends, and neighbors who are no longer with us—you will be missed.

Samuel R. Hermanstorfer
1948-2018

Wayne D. Wallace
1930-2018

Charlotte Johnson
1919-2018



VOLUNTEERS SAVE THE DATE

Around this time of year, winter feels like it will never end, spring seems like it will never get here—and summer is even farther off. But July will be here before we know it! I promise. As you begin to dream ahead to warmer weather, save the date on these fun volunteer opportunities. Each requires a large number of volunteers to run successfully and we will need your help. Pencil in the dates, invite a friend, and I'll keep you posted on any new information. You'll hear it here first, friends! 😊

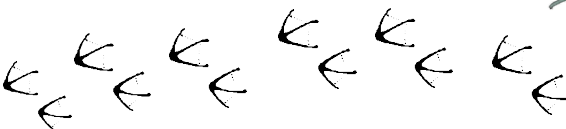
Home & Garden Tour: ACHS is will co-host two Home and Garden tours in 2018 one in Anoka and one in Fridley. Volunteers are critical to make both tour days successful! In your role as a greeter, you'll be stationed at a tour location to check tickets and keep an eye on tour traffic for the property owner.

Date: July 15 (Anoka Tour), July 22 (Fridley Tour). Volunteer for one or both tours. Time commitment: 12.30-5.30 p.m. Training materials provided.

Anoka County Fair: Hang out at the ACHS farmhouse during the fair. Talk to guests about historical items in the building, start conversations about history, showcase a craft you are an expert in (optional), and introduce ACHS to guests.

Fair dates: July 24 – 29. Shifts: 3 or 5 hours each. Various start times throughout the day. Training materials provided before shift, as well as on day. Entrance ticket provided. Farmhouse open 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Sara Given
Volunteer Coordinator
Sara@AnokaCountyHistory.org





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SUPPORT ACHS!

MARCH 15
ALL DAY SPREE!

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Need hostess gifts for
family gatherings?
Mother's Day treasures?

Anoka County Historical
Society will receive 15% of
all sales **AS A DONATION!**

These Fundraisers happen the 3rd
Thursday of every month. Each
month the sales benefit a local,
non-profit organization

Keep up with the Fun at ACHS!

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



Anoka County
Historical Society



AnokaCoHistory



AnokaCoHistory

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

Tuesday 10 a.m.—8 p.m.

Wednesday-Friday 10 a.m.—5 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m.—4 p.m.

ACHS Board Meetings

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

Open to membership and the public.

How Indiana Went Wrong *Gasp*—Archaeology Series*February 27, 6 p.m. at the Anoka County History Center*

Get inside the brain of an Archaeologist and their persistent questions about ethics in these fun archaeology themed games. Mini Indy's 8+ welcome with adult

Liberty's Ladies: Minnesota's Great Women of the Great War*March 16, 10 a.m. at the QCTV Studio*

Pre-registration required

See page 9 for more information

A County Full of Growing Things*March 17, 2 p.m. at Rum River Library*

Anoka County may not look like it now, but before the 1950s, this area had a strong agricultural economy. Join us as we explore these ideas, the Columbia Heights Garden Club, and the efforts of Marie DeGraff in this program. This program is funded with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

What's in Indy's Pack—Archaeology Series*March 20, 6 p.m. at the Anoka County History Center*

A trowel or a bull whip? Or maybe a shovel. Explore the tools of the trade and learn how to use them. Hands on! Mini Indy's 8+ welcome with adult

ACHS Annual Meeting*March 25, 1 p.m. at Fridley Historical Society*

See page 7 for more details

Mysteries of History—Library Program*April 9, 6:30 p.m. at the Columbia Heights City Library*

Discover the fun as we try to reorder construction photos, deduce eras based on the clothing worn, or just try to figure out what in the world is going on in that picture. This program funded with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Where Indy Found the Loot (um, artifacts)—Archaeology Series*April 14, 1 p.m. at the Anoka County History Center*

Join a real Archaeologist in a site visit and put your new skills to the test. Hands on! Mini Indy's 8+ welcome with adult



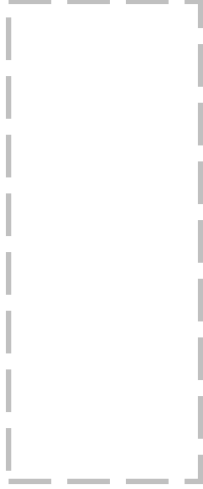
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Anoka County
Historical Society



HISTORY 21

Volume 48 No.3 May-June 2018

Making alcohol legal since 1933 with the 21st Amendment

AnokaCountyHistory.org

History 21 (in honor of the 21 cities in Anoka County) is published by the Anoka County Historical Society six times yearly as a member benefit. The ACHS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible within the allowable limits of the law.

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Table of Contents:

- 3 - Letters from the ACHS President and Director
- 4 - Anoka Closed for Albert F. Pratt
- 7 - Meet Janice—new ACHS Staff
- 8 - Collections Corner:
Kline Sanitarium Sun Lamp
- 9 - Anoka Home & Garden Tour
- 10 - Fridley Home & Garden Tour
- 11 - ACHS at MALHM
- 12 - Volunteer World:
You're needed this summer
- 14 - Thank You to Our Supporters
- 15 - Upcoming Events

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

Hamburgers, hot dogs and root beer. Coca Cola Sign

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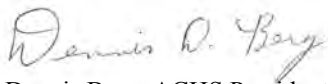
From the President

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

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

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

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



Dennis Berg, ACHS President



From the Director

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

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

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

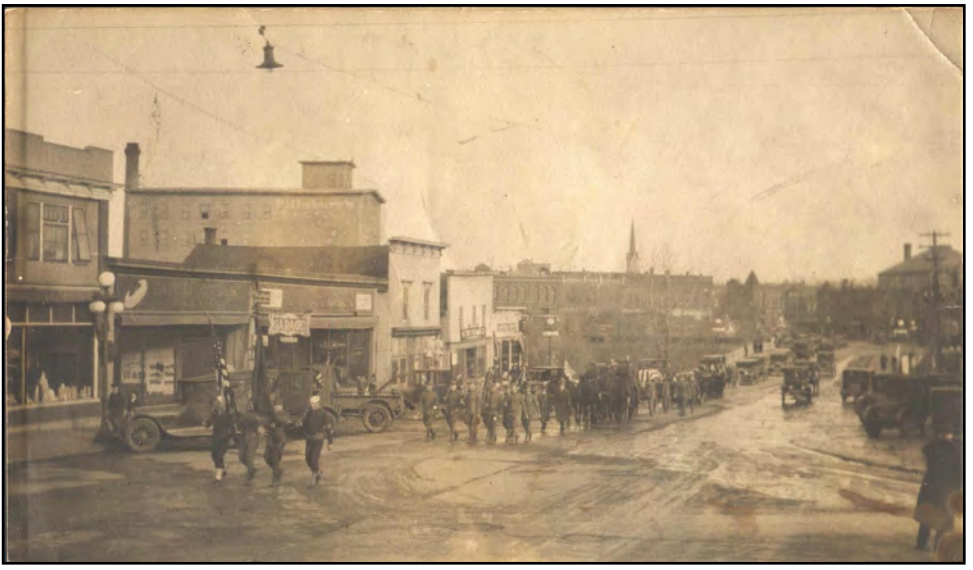
[insert cheering and my rock star moment]

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

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



Rebecca Ebnet-Mavencamp, Executive Director



ALBERT F. PRATT

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

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

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

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

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

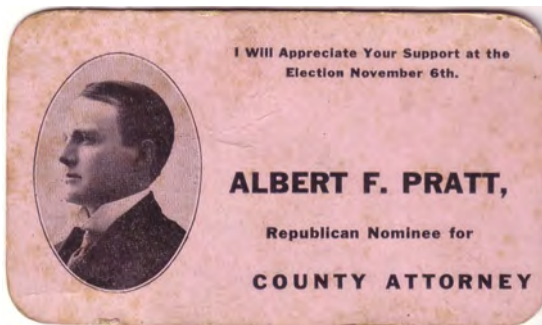
Above: Funeral procession for Albert F. Pratt headed to Forest Hill Cemetery on West Main St., Anoka.

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

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

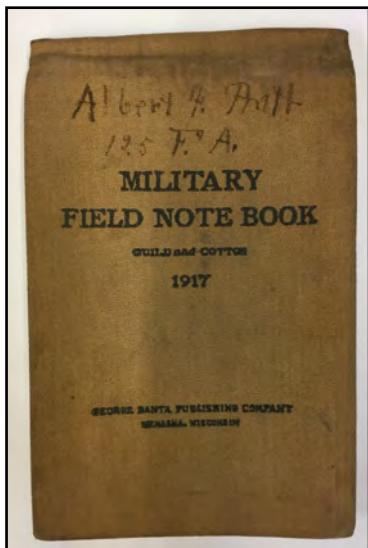
Pratt's family life was less eventful than Morrill's. He and his wife, Olive, had four children together during his time as a City and then County Attorney, between 1900 and 1906; Robert, Lucia, Thomas, and Albert. It is during his time with the County that his personal files reflect a wider range of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

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



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

Captain Albert Pratt [far left] , undated.



deceased, witnesses, and the detective on the case.

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

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

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

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

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



RESEARCH BOOKS AVAILABLE

By Sandy Connor

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



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

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

Who knows what you can find out about your ancestors?



Meet Janice! - New Front Desk Staff

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

What is your favorite thing about ACHS so far?

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

Any surprises you never expected?

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



Hanovia Alpine Sun Lamp

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

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

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

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

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

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



15TH ANNUAL ANOKA HERITAGE

Home and Garden Tour

Sunday July 15, 2018

1 p.m.-5 p.m.

Beautiful Gardens
Federal Clubhouse

1939 Tornado Twists

Pop-up Marketplace



Buy tickets at
AnokaCountyHistory.org

ADVANCE TICKETS

\$12



Ramble back in time...



Fridley Historic Home & Garden Tour

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

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



OAK VIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

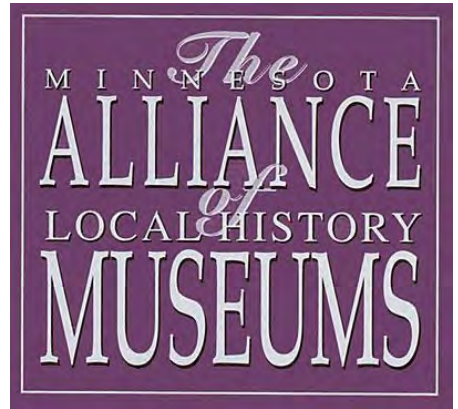
Prohibition lived again for sixth graders at Oak View Middle School in Andover this past month. On April 20, Sara Given channeled her inner flapper and gave a program six times to 12 classes of students. They started by immersing themselves in what students, classrooms, and even grocery stores and diners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

ACHS AT MALHM!

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

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

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

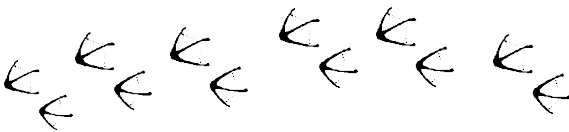




While Winter seemed to hang on FOREVER this year, Summer will sneak in and appear before you know it. It is the time of sunshine, lakes, fun and ...HISTORY! The ACHS has a number of events this summer that we need help with. Check your calendars, and sign up to help at one (or more 😊) of these programs.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

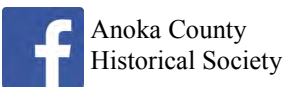
Here's to needing sunblock soon.

Sara Given
 Volunteer Coordinator
Sara@AnokaCountyHistory.org



Keep up with the Fun at ACHS!

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





VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

RiverFest

July 14

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

Shifts 2 hours.

Volunteers needed: 24

Anoka Home & Garden Tour

July 15, 1-5 p.m.

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

Volunteers needed: Approx. 30

Fridley Home & Garden Tour

July 22, 1-5 p.m.

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

Volunteers needed: Approx. 30

Anoka County Fair

July 24-29

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

Volunteers needed: 40

Ghost Tour Guides

Training July/August

Tours September & October

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

Volunteers needed: 8+

Nowthen Threshing Show

August 17-19

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

Volunteers needed: 15

General Donations

AAA Auction & Realty, LLC
Helen J. Aling
Anoka American Legion Post 102
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Anonymous
Marlys Burman
Mike & Mary Clark
Ed & Marg Faherty
Albert & Millie Kordiak
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ACHS New Members

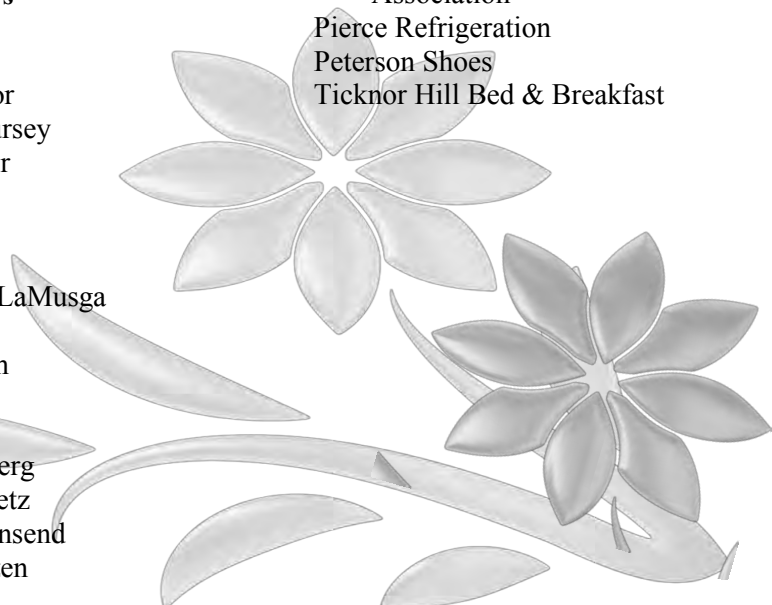
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ACHS Sustaining Members

Northeast Bank
Terry and Gina Overacker
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Anoka Dental
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City of Columbia Heights
Coon Rapids Historical Commission
Fifth Avenue Dental
Forest Lake Contracting, Inc.
Hawaii Nail Spa
Nowthen Historical Power
Association
Pierce Refrigeration
Peterson Shoes
Ticknor Hill Bed & Breakfast



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

Tuesday 10 a.m.—8 p.m.

Wednesday-Friday 10 a.m.—5 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m.—4 p.m.

ACHS Board Meetings

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

Open to membership and the public.

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

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

Pre-registration available online

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

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

Tickets are FREE, but reservations are required.

Anoka RiverFest*July 14*

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

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

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

Advance tickets: \$12

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

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

Advance tickets: \$12



Anoka County
Historical Society
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HISTORY 21

Volume 48 No.4 July-August 2018

Making alcohol legal since 1933 with the 21st Amendment

AnokaCountyHistory.org

History 21 (in honor of the 21 cities in Anoka County) is published by the Anoka County Historical Society six times yearly as a member benefit. The ACHS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible within the allowable limits of the law.

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Table of Contents:

3 - Letters from the ACHS
President and Director

4 - The Terror of the Summer

8 - Collections Corner:
The Wilkins Family

9 - Exhibit Opening July 14!

10 - TWO Home & Garden Tours

11 - ACHS Around Town

12 - Volunteer World:
You're needed this summer

13 - Interns Working

14 - Thank You to Our Supporters

15 - Upcoming Events

Front Cover: Extension Service Annual Report, 1930, pg 23.

"Willis Wyatt of the Bethel 4-H Dairy Calf Club with their Jersey Calves."

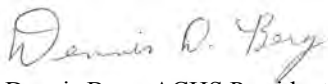
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From the President

When I left home to serve in Vietnam, the world felt chaotic and abusive toward not only those deployed, but the family left at home. Communication came through letters since phone calls were impossible. Our loved ones truly were left on their own until our return.

Today, we see a level of support for our military not felt since WWII and the innovations in technology provide for almost constant contact during a deployment. That said, the families face the same anxiety and loneliness of separation during a deployment today than they always have. The circumstances may have changed, but the experience remains largely the same.

We are looking for partners to support ACHS in collecting the stories of these families during an upcoming deployment of the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division. Some of these stories will be featured in a half-hour documentary in partnership with Twin Cities Public Television (TPT), providing a state-wide platform to increase awareness of the family experience. We hope you can join us in this project!



Dennis Berg, ACHS President



From the Director

ACHS has committed to taking the Veterans Voice project to an exciting, and highly visible, level by partnering with Twin Cities Public Television (TPT) to produce a half-hour documentary on military families of Anoka County.

This project will move our efforts to preserve military history into the present by focusing on those currently experiencing a deployment in Anoka County. By engaging veteran families and their networks, we can amplify their story and influence with the public. Too often historians wait for memories to grow old and cold before collecting them, thus risking the integrity of the content. This production will allow for the education of Anoka County residents and the preservation of ideas while the content remains relatable.

Stay tuned...literally! The proposed broadcast date is July of 2019. Until then, look for more information and think about how overseas deployments have affected your networks. We would love to hear your story!



Rebecca Ebnet-Mavencamp, Executive Director



4-Hers enjoying the summer, 1941. Object ID:Aces 1941-17

The Terror of the Summer

By John Hilst., ACHS Intern

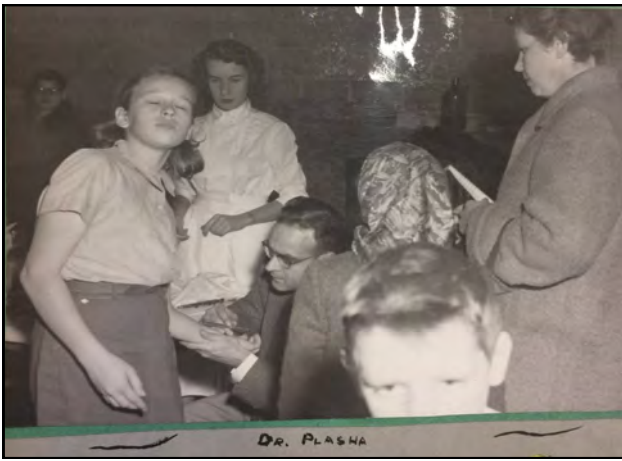
Poliomyelitis, commonly known as polio, has a long history in the United States and Anoka County. Highly contagious and incurable, this disease affects all ages. It can be contracted year round, but is most common between June and September. Polio spreads especially well in contaminated water, causing outbreaks often centered around swimming pools, lakes, and beaches. Minnesota, with its 10,000 lakes and even more lakeside cabins, became a hotbed of polio.

The virus attacks the nerves of the brain and spinal cord. This can lead to muscle weakness, paralysis, and death. Weakness and paralysis of the legs, the most infamous symptoms, especially frightened people. Since it affected all social classes indiscriminately, people felt more threatened by polio than other diseases, comparable to the Spanish flu epidemic of 1918.

The Sister Kenny Institute, now the Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute at Allina Health, pioneered organized treatment in Minnesota. Founded in 1942 by Australian Sister Elizabeth Kenny, the Institute treated polio patients with damp, hot towels instead of the more conventional splints. This allowed for relaxation and exercising of the affected muscles and proved more effective and less painful for the patients.

Harriet Olson, an Anoka County native, was admitted to the University of Minnesota Hospital with polio at the age of 8 in 1943.





Dr. Plasha, a physician in Coon Rapids, administering polio vaccinations at Blaine Elementary school, 1955.

“I went through all the hot packs and the exercises,” said Olson. “I was there for ten and a half months... [The nurses] did a lot of things. You laid with these hot packs at least two times a day, maybe more, flat with your feet up against a board.”

Upon arrival at a care facility, patients would also be subjected to lumbar punctures, a painful extraction of spinal fluid. In 1946, Minnesota suffered a massive outbreak of Polio. That year, the state saw

nearly 3,000 cases of the disease, including 226 fatal cases. These cases were reported in 86 of the state’s 87 counties. Minnesota cancelled the State Fair, while Anoka cancelled the County Fair, due to fear of polio spreading. Minnesota youth felt the effects the most, with 71.4 percent of cases and half the deaths being represented by children under 15 years of age. The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis (NFIP) provided around \$2 million for treatments.

At the time, the root cause of polio remained unknown. In 1946, the Minnesota State Board of Health suggested that poor diet, excessive exercise, flies and road dust were the culprits. Another popular belief connected tonsillectomy procedures to increased polio risk. The Board suggested dampening the streets and increased rest, as well as avoidance of the ill and polluted water sources. The Board further noted that there was no known cure for polio.

During a nationwide polio epidemic in 1952, Minnesota had the highest polio rates of any state in the nation, seeing nearly 4,000 of about 60,000 cases, and suffering 206 of the 3,145 polio related deaths. That year however, Minnesota began to fight back. NFIP provided 245 nurses from other states to aid with the emergency outbreak. These nurses issued injections of gamma globulin, believed at the time by the American Medical Association to provide short term resistance to polio. Minnesota’s quick and effective response earned praise from the NFIP.

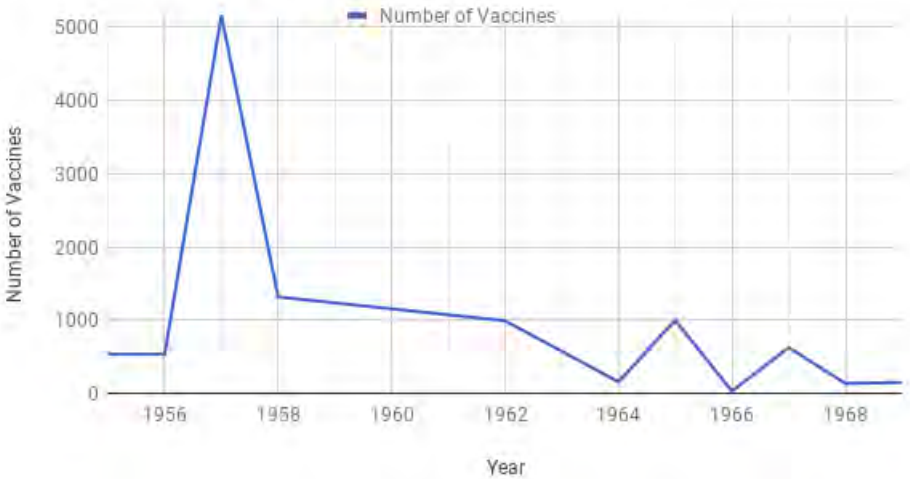
“Under the challenge of the worst polio outbreak of all time, Minnesota reacted with calm intelligence,” reported the NFIP annual report. “There was little panic and a calm attitude was evident everywhere.”

In 1955, Dr. Jonas Salk unveiled his polio vaccine, which could successfully make an individual immune to polio. The Poliomyelitis Assistance Act of 1955 gave

“I was [in hospital] for ten and a half months...”

Harriet Olson

Anoka County Polio Vaccines



Minnesota \$593,448 to use towards vaccinating pregnant women and children up to age 19. In addition, Minnesota received \$86,600 from a General Health Grant for planning and operating a vaccine distribution system, as well as monitoring polio rates. Anoka County first inoculated children between the ages of 5 and 9 on May 26, 1955. By the end of the year, 533 children in the county received the new vaccine.

Statewide, 77 percent of first and second grade children received immunizations, only two of whom would go on to contract Polio. In addition to state-organized efforts, voluntary clinics also opened, in cooperation with local health officials. These clinics charged 50 cents per vaccine, but were noted by the state as administering the vaccines “irrespective of [the patient’s] ability or willingness to pay the nominal charge.”

Local physician Dr. Matthew Plasha administered the Salk vaccine at one of these voluntary clinics at the Blaine school (pictured previous page). By the following year, available stock of the vaccine had grown, allowing the state to encourage everyone to be vaccinated.

In 1957, Minneapolis played host to a mass Polio vaccine campaign, immunizing between 600 and 3,000 children per day. Locally, this campaign was reflected by Conger Pharmacy, at the time located at 120 East Main Street,

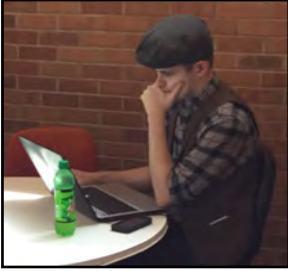
**Protect
Now against
Polio**

According to studies conducted by twenty-two states and New York City, polio vaccine reduced the incidence of the disease from 29.2 cases per 100,000 population among those not immunized to 6.3 cases among those who had been immunized—a reduction of 78 percent. Don't take chances. Provide maximum resistance against polio for yourself and your family. Be immunized. See your physician today.

In the interest of Public Health this advertisement is sponsored by

Conger Pharmacy
CORNER OF SECOND AND MAIN

Anoka, which ran a series of local advertisements in the *Anoka Herald*, calling for widespread vaccination. Minnesota reported zero cases of polio for the first time in 1967. This occurred as a result of the massive vaccination campaign, both in Anoka County and the greater state of Minnesota. The state has not reported a death from natural, locally contracted polio since 1973, and polio has not been reported en masse in the state since 1981.



This section was written by John Hilst, a summer research intern. John has lived in Coon Rapids his entire life and is currently studying both history and industrial engineering at Iowa State University. John is in the process of researching and creating an exhibit focused on the mid-century medical history of Anoka County, especially in regards to polio and medical facilities.

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Show your business' support of local history by
sponsoring our next newsletter.



New additions to our collections usually bring us fresh stories about people who made their home in Anoka County over the years. This is certainly true of three recently donated items: a cast iron baking pan and two garden hoes.

These artifacts belonged to two generations of the Wilkins family of Fridley. The baking pan was that of Margaret (Michener) Wilkins (1866-1953), the wife of Charles Morris Wilkins (1865-1940). Married in Indiana on October 16, 1894, the couple later moved to Fridley. Charles' occupation is given as a tin smith or sheet metal worker, while Margaret kept their home and raised five children: Heber C., Howard G., John R., Charles M. Jr., and Ruth M. Wilkins.

Margaret was a Quaker, and even as technology began to progress into the 20th century, she preferred to do her cooking and baking on a wood-burning stove using cast iron implements. The baking pan (below, Object ID# 2018.0995.001) was one of them. Composed of two rows of six half-cylinder sections, the rows were joined in the middle and with a small handle on each short end; this one has no mark indicating its maker. The word "Patented" is stamped on one handle, and a number given on the other, but the number is no longer legible. Pans like these could be used to bake a variety of things, including muffins, cornbread, or rolls. Other cast iron implements used by Margaret were a griddle, waffle-maker, and a large fork.

When Margaret passed away in 1953, her youngest son, Charles M. Wilkins Jr.

(1901-1993), inherited her cooking utensils. Listed as a farmer living with his parents in 1910, he later worked as a salesman, selling coffee and soap. He married Florence M. Petersen (1902-1988) on June 14, 1924 (see above). They continued to live in the Fridley area, and having two daughters, Shirley I. and Marjorie J. The family gardened, and they had two garden hoes. One, with a green metal head, is a regular size, used by Charles and Florence. The second is red and was smaller, sized for a child; this hoe was used by their children and grandchildren throughout the middle of the 20th century.

Thanks to these artifacts, we know more about the Wilkins family across two, and even three, generations, for it was one of Charles and Florence's granddaughters who donated them to ACHS. The hoes are now on display in the Garage exhibit, helping visitors better picture what mid-century life was like in Anoka County. The baking pan is safely in the collections, ready for any who want to explore life in the early 1900s.





Come in We're
OPEN

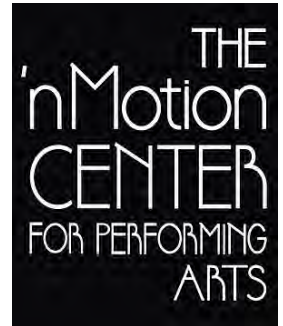
THE **G**ARAGE

JULY 14
10 A.M.– 4P.M.

Heading to Riverfest in Anoka on July 14? Pop over to the History Center for some fun and get an eye-ful of those baby-food jars

screwed to a plywood shelf. Yep, we're opening a new exhibit and it resembles that garage you remember in the 60s!

In addition to the new exhibit, join us to play games (hopscotch and hula hoops are a must), enjoy a root beer float, and relax watching dancers from 'nMotion Studio in Fridley.



Thank You!!

This spring we held our 2nd Online Auction through the generous help and partnership with AAA Auction and Realty Company. Items on the auction included specially designated items and donations (no worries, no collection pieces!). Through the companies auction network and your support we raised \$1,645 for ACHS and local history. THANK YOU!

We are in the process of gathering items for our next online auction. If you have anything you think would be a great auction donation, contact us at the History Center. Board President Dennis Berg is spearheading this effort.



Home & Garden Tours!

Two cities in Anoka County showcase their history and beauty with Home & Garden Tours this year!

On July 15, the Anoka HPC and ACHS host their 15th tour. This beautiful summer tradition explores unique homes, and the hidden history still present from the 1939 Anoka Tornado. Special features also include an exclusive look past the gates and inside the Federal Cartridge Clubhouse, and a Pop-Up Marketplace and Tornado exhibit at the Anoka Armory, a building destroyed by that same tornado.

Join a new tradition with the Fridley Historic Home & Garden Tour on July 22! This tour will ramble back in time into Fridley's most famous era, the 60s: an age of tornadoes, strength and rebuilding. Enjoy scenic homes and gardens while learning more about the history of the Fridley area. The tour is a fundraiser for the Anoka County Historical Society and the Fridley Historical Society.

Purchase tickets for either (or both!) tours at AnokaCountyHistory.org



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS TEA

The afternoon of May 5 was a time for fun and successful fundraising at the History Center. League of Women Voters—ABC partnered with ACHS to sponsor a tea to raise funds for an exhibit celebrating the League's 100th anniversary in 2019. A tea has significance for LWV-

ABC because Mary Spurzem held a tea to organize a League of Women Voters in Anoka, which became League of Women Voters—ABC. Our tea was attended by 28 League members, their family, and friends. ACHS staff created a placemat especially for the event showing items of our history from the History Center files. We were delighted that the placemat featured our beloved member, Zilla Way, who attended and signed some of the placemats, which attendees took home as mementoes. Another highlight we enjoyed was a scavenger hunt that introduced everyone to the exhibits. We had a wonderful time, learned about our history, plans for an exhibit featuring the League's 100th birthday, and the great work of the History Center. LWV – ABC thanks ACHS staff for their cooperation and hard work. We had so much fun we may do it again!

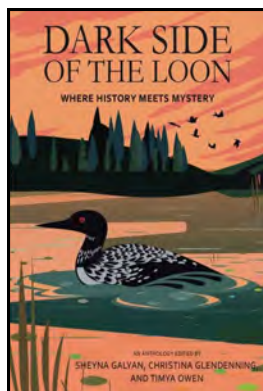


DARK SIDE OF THE LOON BOOK EVENT

On June 9 authors from *Dark Side of the Loon: Where History Meets Mystery* hosted an author showcase at the History Center. It was a day of mystery, adventure, and local history, all wrapped in fiction. Every 45 minutes throughout the day, new authors from the book took center stage in the Philolectian Room to read a portion of their story in the

publication and answer questions. Visitors seemed especially interested in the writing process, research methods, and publication procedure.

Special thank you to the authors who shared their time and talents: Midge Bubany, E. Bakos (Mary Sebesta), Barbara Merritt Deese, W. Powers (Bill Anderson), S. Owen (Timya Owen), Greg Dahlager, Marlene Chabot, James Goodhue, Carol Huss, Cheryl Lewis, Christine Husom, Michael Allan Mallory, Karl Jorgenson, and Sherry Roberts.







When people think of volunteering the History Center, they automatically think of all the old stuff we keep in boxes. While the collection (re: old stuff) is important to who we are, a bigger need is meeting people, having fun with history and letting them know about the History Center.

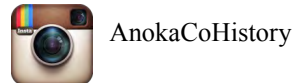
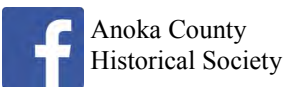
Don't be shocked, but there are people that say they don't like history *gasp* or haven't heard of ACHS *pout.* 😊 Our summer events, including the Home & Garden Tours, Riverfest, Anoka County Fair and Nowthen Threshing Show are chances to introduce the fun of history and ACHS to new folk.

It can't be done without support. We still need help to cover all shifts at these summer events. Volunteer yourself, and even bring a friend or two to join the fun. Spend 2.5 hours at the County Fair (July 24-29), or 4 hours hanging at a beautiful home on the Fridley Garden Tour (July 22) and show people that history LIVES!



 Sara Given
 Volunteer Coordinator
Sara@AnokaCountyHistory.org

Keep up with the Fun at ACHS!

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





INTERNS Ahead



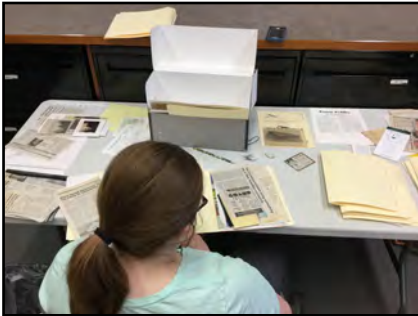
Meet the Oxley Crew!

This summer, ACHS board member Richard Oxley created a new internship at Hennepin Technical College. Students Cameron, Christi, and Chaeli earn school credits while creating video and digital content for the History Center in the form of 2 *Minute History*.

These video shorts, aptly two minutes long as the name implies, showcase the displays available in the exhibit hall. The crew tackles a new video each week, spending a day each on pre-production, shooting, and post-production. Topics include Jon Arfstrom,

Anoka County Schools, and the Kline Sanitarium.

Find 2 *Minute History* episodes on our website, or Facebook page!



Meet Delaney!

Delaney is an archival intern at the History Center. During her time here, she is organizing and cataloging a large collection of items about the history of Nowthen (Burns Township).

What favorite thing you have discovered in your project so far?

My favorite thing I have discovered are

the records relating to Jim Hare, the man credited with naming Nowthen. I also found a republican ticket from President Grant's election within that collection.

What surprised you about interning at ACHS?

I think I was surprised by the extensive amount of history on just one town within the county.

What is your goal beyond this internship?

My goal is to go on to graduate school for Library and Information Sciences to become a future archivist on the East Coast.

General Donations

Johannes Allert
Anoka Women of Today
Kevin and Patti Bellows
Mike and Mary Clark
Eva Mae Cleator
Julie Firkus
Eloise Graham
Melvin Larson
League of Women Voters—ABC
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Carol Vevea
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Chapter 470
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Memorial Donations

Eleanor Lee (Jacob) Swisher

Artifact Donors

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Hawaii Nail Spa
Nowthen Historical Power
Association
Pierce Refrigeration
Peterson Shoes
Ticknor Hill Bed & Breakfast



ACHS Remembers



To those members, volunteers, friends, and neighbors who are no longer with us—you will be missed.

Eleanor Lee Swisher
1920-2018

Julian “Steve” Stephen
Schmidt
1946-2018

Donald Vesley
1932-2018

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

Tuesday 10 a.m.—8 p.m.

Wednesday-Friday 10 a.m.—5 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m.—4 p.m.

ACHS Board Meetings

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

Open to membership and the public.

Anoka RiverFest & Exhibit Opening*July 14, 10a.m.-4 p.m.*

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

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

Back for the 15th year, Anoka's Heritage Home & Garden Tour journeys into the history of Anoka's 1939 tornado, through the Federal Cartridge Clubhouse, and into gardens dug with love. Also enjoy a Pop-Up Museum and Marketplace at the Armory. Advance tickets: \$12

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

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

Advance tickets: \$12

Anoka County Fair*July 24-29*

Visit the ACHS at the Old Farmhouse to share stories, play with old games, relax on the porch swing and share the mystery of the kitchen's ice box.

Gate Admission: Adults \$10 (ACHS Farmhouse volunteers receive free ticket)

Anoka County Genealogical Society Meeting*August 7, 6:30 p.m.* Topic: Migration - Why did they go that way?*September 4, 6:30 p.m.* Meeting topic to be determined.

Meetings held at the Anoka County History Center.

Email questions or suggestions to acgsmn@yahoo.com**Nowthen Threshing Show***August 17-19*

Visit ACHS in our 1920's era General Store to purchase a delicious pickle or penny candy while bemoaning the effects of Prohibition or women's suffrage.

Gate Admission: \$10 Adults (ACHS General Store volunteers receive free ticket)



Anoka County
Historical Society
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Anoka, MN 55303
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Anoka County
Historical Society



HISTORY 21

Volume 48 No.5 September-October 2018

One, two, skip a few, twenty, **Twenty-One**

AnokaCountyHistory.org

History 21 (in honor of the 21 cities in Anoka County) is published by the Anoka County Historical Society six times yearly as a member benefit. The ACHS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible within the allowable limits of the law.

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Table of Contents:

3 - Letters from the ACHS
President and Director

4 - Harvey Greenberg

8 - Collections Corner:
Lou Paulson's Nowthen
Collection

9 - New Faces at ACHS

10 - ACHS Around Town

12 - Volunteer World:
Look what you did!

13 - *2 Minute History* Library

13 - Ghost Tours are Here Again

14 - Thank You to Our Supporters

15 - Upcoming Events

Front Cover: Extension Service Annual Report, 1942

Caption: "Frank Gilligan, St. Francis Township, was one of the several Farmers hit in the severe wind storm which swept central Minnesota in mid-September. The Extension Service sponsored a meeting at St. Francis following the storm to assist farmers with wind resistant construction."

Object ID#: AG100.1942.31

From the President

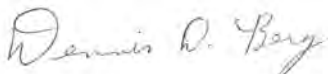
To achieve the quality we want for our veterans during the Veterans Voice documentation project, we are gearing up for a major fundraising event. As we get organized and word begins to spread, we have already received positive feedback from early donors and military families.

The Anoka County Historical Society has maintained a military gallery as part of the museum exhibit hall since 2001. During this time, we have documented major conflicts including WWI, Vietnam, the Civil War, and WWII in detail so our community can better understand the relationship between veterans and civilians. These projects have typically included gathering oral history stories, conducting research, producing publications and small-scale videos, while also fabricating the gallery exhibit.

The Veterans Voice project takes the ACHS commitment to military history into the modern era by focusing on those who served since the Gulf War. Together donors, staff, volunteers, and veterans will recount the many facets of this 30-year story involving dramatic changes in communication, home front life, children, and the community of Anoka County.

By engaging veteran families to bring their story public using physical, virtual, and digital means, the Veterans Voice project will amplify their influence with the public. Too often historians wait for memories to grow old and cold before collecting them, thus risking the integrity of the content. Veterans Voice will allow for the education of Anoka County residents and the preservation of ideas while the content remains relatable.

The largest, and most innovative, portion of this endeavor lies in producing a half-hour documentary in partnership with Twin Cities Public Television (TPT), discussing the deployment of the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division as it occurs.


Dennis Berg, ACHS President



From the Director

It's the time of year where we look at the calendar and think, "Wow...we'll do that in December!" We had a whirlwind July with programming and outreach opportunities, paused for a breath, and are now falling headlong into the Ghost Tour season. This side of public history, the one where we see the faces light up with wonder or excitement mirrored back to us in shining eyes and enthusiastic stories, reminds us why we "do history" in the first place. Whether it was a child looking through a stereoscope at the County Fair or an adult recounting their youth during a Home and Garden Tour, we facilitate connections. And those connections ensure history stays relevant and active to our community and members.



Rebecca Ebnet-Mavencamp, Executive Director



In Memory **Harvey Greenberg**

Harvey Greenberg joined the Anoka County Board of Directors in 2009 and served until his term ended this year. A resident of Nowthen, Harvey passed away on August 5, only three weeks after making one final visit to the museum. Known for his love of history, storytelling abilities, and warm heart, Harvey impacted many lives at ACHS and throughout his community. We would like to extend our condolences to the Greenberg family, as well as our gratitude, for sharing Harvey with us.

The following are recollections of Harvey Greenberg ACHS collected in an oral interview on January 16, 2004 by Linda Cameron at Greenberg Implement Company, Nowthen, MN.

Well, I just kind of fell into it [becoming a farm implement dealer]. We – my folks -- started the business, and I was six years old when we came here, and I always wanted my dad to sell tractors. And after World War II, that became a reality in 1946, when we started selling farm equipment. I guess I've been here ever since, other than my military time.

This garage, which is 40 X 60, was built by my dad... with the help of his capable

wife, Edith, my mother, and they built it in 1938, when I was seven years old. They moved in and the building was poured cement walls... they used cement forms before they had cement blocks, and I still have the forms that



Greenberg's first garage, dated 1938 (Object ID: 2056.1.9)

was used to make the building back here. I just kind of was in grade school. Used to be in here every night working with my dad, and just kind of grew into it.

We originally didn't sell cars until 1953 when we started selling Hudson cars, which, when Hudson and Nash merged, it became American Motors, and we sold Ramblers and we sold them quite well, here.

First of all, we were [located] on 5th Avenue South [in Anoka]– the building where Ray Chase had been. He had purchased it from Don Odegaard, and then we left that spot, and built a new place west of Anoka on Highway 10 in about '64, I believe it was.

Basically, my dad did so much repairs that that's, at the end, he cared more about the shop mostly. My brother, Donald, who was seven years older than me, is really the one that got the farm machinery started back in '46, after he got through with World War II. He was a pilot in the Navy. And that's when we started selling Olivers, in 1946-47.

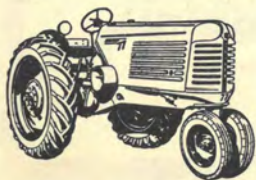
In 1948, we sold Gale. And then in '53, we got the Hudsons. About 1960, we sold New Idea. And 1971, we took on International Harvester. [Over the years] costs have really risen. When my dad started this place in 1938, in the building and the five acres and the home, which had no plumbing or anything, he had \$5,000 invested. But they didn't count their labor. He took the summer off to build along with his contractors. And now, we can't hardly look at any tractor that's on the farm; he's gotta start out by \$60,000, but to average that we sell most of them is right around \$100,000 apiece.

Now there's leasing. Leasing has really gotten going the last five or 10 years. Leasing is really popular. However, with the tax incentives there are out right now for accelerated depreciation, etc., purchasing is seemingly back on track again.

L.C. What changes have you seen in farming in Anoka County during your years in business and how have those changes affected your business?

It seems as though when I was young, when the school buses would go down the road and stop at every farm and pick up 3-4 kids – it might be 80 acres, it might be 120.

GREENBERG'S GARAGE



OLIVER FARM EQUIPMENT

"Finest in Farm Machinery"



NOWTHEN

PHONE: Elk River 9-R-11

Cook's 1958 Anoka County Minnesota Directory and Buyers Guide.

And it seems like there's been a constant pressure for everyone had to get big and get more efficient; it was the push, the pressure. And it seems like that push is still on. If it keeps on like it is, there'll be one farm left in the United States.

I don't know why we have to keep pressuring this way. Why we can't just, say, level off and everybody have a better handle on it. It's just getting so big. And so much pressure upon the farmers. It's taken it's toll. It fluctuates, though. ... And we've been doing business for over 50 years.

L.C. Did your grandparents farm in Anoka County, also?

My Grandpa Greenberg was two miles north of Nowthen, and that's where my dad had his first shop from the 20's up till '38. And my Grandpa Skogquist, who is – would be great grandpa to the mayor of Anoka [Bjorn Skogquist], is just northeast of Nowthen about three miles.

[I grew up on a farm for] the first six years, but I grew up in this house right along the building, here ... My dad never farmed. But he helped my grandpa farm, but they – my grandpa, had horses, because they kept them longer than normal because that was something for them. Otherwise, my cousins and other people didn't really think we needed horses, [be]cause we had the tractors.

But, basically, the farmer has always wanted to farm, and that's what they do ... I mean if somebody took me and told me to go start working in a drug store, and hand out prescriptions, I mean, I just absolutely would be devastated.

There's a lot of knowledge to it. I had an old farmer neighbor, once, who told me "you gotta know your business, even if you're running a peanut roaster," and I used to let that go in one ear and out the other. The older I get, the more meaning that has.

And there are really a lot of sharp



Accession #: 2014.1418

young farmers out here, who hang onto what their dad told them. And they're catching on with this technology.

L.C. Can you share any good stories about your experiences in business? What has been the most rewarding thing for you as an implement dealer?

Well, I guess the satisfaction that we've had a handle on providing food and fiber for the community and for the nation. There's satisfaction in that. I guess the most rewarding thing is, over the years, and I'm 72 now, and we've had some people that have been, as I mentioned earlier, loyal to us. I've had some – I think I have a neighbor down the road that's 20 years older than me, and when I used to be with my dad at age 7, my dad told me, "That man is the most honest man you're gonna ever know." And I'll have to say, after these 60 years, my neighbor had been a real mentor to me, in his honesty, and I've never seen him ever come in here and trying to chisel us out of anything. He just always did and he was very loyal to us. Everything he had on wheels on the farm, the cars, the tractors, everything came from here. Now he's 92, and he was a real mentor of my life, actually. A neighbor. And just doing business over the phone, a handshake – which you can't shake hands over the phone, but you just understand each other. And basically, the trust back and forth with people and just having done business with decent people over the years has been rewarding in itself.

I'll never forget my uncle. He was never for anything new until it was well- proven. And I used to go visit him, and I'd tell him that we'd got all this stuff that saves so much time, and if he had it, he could save so much time. Later in his life, he told me, he says, "You know all that time that you're saving? What are you doing with it?" I said, "I don't know." And he says, "Every time I see you, you're in more of a hurry than were the last time I saw you. So I don't think all those ideas are working," he says. "I think you'd better find another plan."

I thought about it, [be]cause we find ourselves getting something going, and that requires more pressure, and we just keep on getting – it gets more and more requirements all the time, so I think maybe from back when everything was real hard to do, and now when it's real easy, maybe halfway in between was about right.



If you live in the city of Nowthen or the surrounding parts of the county, you are probably familiar with the name of Lou Paulson. A life-long resident of that city, Lou wanted to make sure that Nowthen (or Burns Township) history was preserved and recorded. Even though she passed

away in 2011, the legacy she created for Nowthen continues. Her book on the area, *Nowthen Then and Now*, published first by DeForest Press in 1997 and republished in 2007, remains an excellent resource for many, including those of us at ACHS.

History books do not write themselves overnight, however, and not all information and stories can fit into a single volume. As all good historians do, Lou spent many years collecting stories, photographs, and information about her hometown. Her children preserved these documents and photographs and in 2016, the family chose to donate them to the Historical Society. The collection is now processed, which ensures its accessibility to anyone else interested in doing research on Nowthen history.

CA COLLECTIVE ACCESS

New Museum Software

Over the past several months, ACHS has worked to transfer all the information about our museum collections into a new software,

called CollectiveAccess. Our previous software, PastPerfect, had become outdated and the new CollectiveAccess has many upgraded features and options. With the transition complete, we continue to learning the new system, but have already seen its benefits. Before the end of the year, a public-facing website ought to go live, making the ACHS collections fully available online.

The whole project was spearheaded by the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums (MALHM), using Legacy grant money from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. The goal of the project was to create a useful museum software, including a public-facing collections website, available to all Minnesota history organizations. We feel privileged to have helped with this effort by being a pilot site for the project.

Lou collected photographs ranging from images of the Hare family (Jim Hare is credited with being the reason the post office in Burns Township was named the Nowthen Post Office), to modern photographs of Nowthen businesses and the Nowthen Threshing Show. While we have identified some duplicates within the ACHS collections, many proved unique additions to the archives. Lou also collected many different kinds of documents related to the city of Nowthen, including newspaper articles, items created by local churches, businesses, and schools, and some records of nearby areas, such as St. Francis. In addition to the things she collected, Lou also kept copious notes in the course of writing her book. These thoughts, collected stories, and reminders are preserved with the other papers, making it not a “Nowthen Collection,” but “*Lou Paulson’s* Nowthen Collection.”

A transcript of our Century Farm interview with Lou Paulson is available on our website, while the full entries for this collection will hopefully be available online before the end of the year.



Call for Cotton Sheets

We once again need clean, white cotton sheets to cover larger items in our Collections Storage area. If you have used sheets you no longer need, we will gladly take them!

There are more new faces at the History Center! Karen is our new staff member with bookkeeping skills and Cindy comes to ACHS through a partnership with Anoka County. Both are amazing additions to the ACHS team. Meet them here, or drop by to say hello!



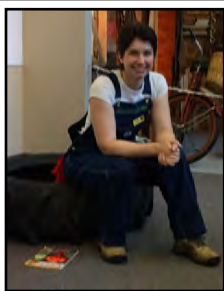
Welcome Karen!

I have been an ACHS volunteer for years. As an avid antique collector, I appreciate the efforts of what the ACHS does in our community to preserve and share that history. I am thrilled to now be a small part of the team.

Welcome Cindy!

Hi! I am excited to be working here and have the opportunity to learn of and explore the history of Anoka County. Libraries and museums have always been of special interest to me. I look forward to all the exciting activities at ACHS!



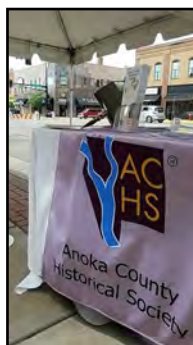


Anoka Riverfest

July 14

In keeping with our recent Riverfest tradition, we opened new exhibits—the Kline Sanitarium

and the Suburban Garage! Over 300 people visited the museum to view prescription bottles and wrenches while reminiscing about memories the artifacts evoked. ACHS staff and volunteers mingled with visitors, served root beer floats, answered questions about Anoka County history, and staffed our usual Riverfest booth on Jackson Street.



DA Sidewalk Sale

July 19-21

We had the privilege of partnering with Discover Anoka and Chema Malu to enjoy the passers-by during this special event. We chatted about the Veterans

Voice project, ghost tours, and the new additions to our exhibit hall. The curious stopped to peer into a stereoscope and the enthusiastic regaled us with legacy stories from their families. We'll admit, we wandered over to the food trucks on Saturday after our shift, however...!

Anoka Home and Garden Tour

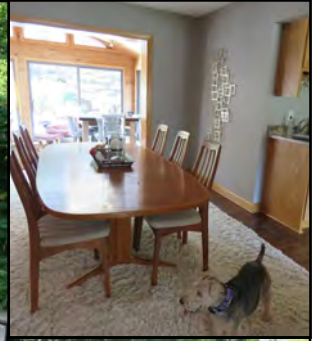
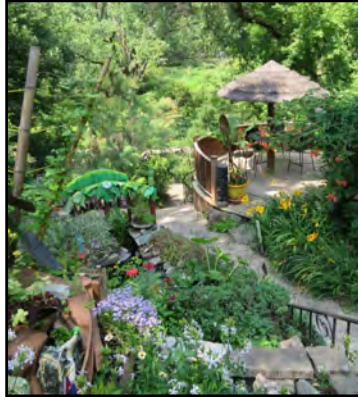


On July 15, over 250 people explored the beauty and history of Anoka on our 15th Home & Garden Tour. The day's sunshine illuminated beautiful gardens, ingenious interior decorating schemes, and many smiles from tour-goers throughout the day.

Fridley Home and Garden Tour

July 22

In our first (and now hopefully, annual) home tour through the ramblers of Fridley, we met some fantastic new friends and volunteers. The *Star Tribune* featured the event on the front page in a discussion about the historic significance of these special homes. We would like to thank our partners: the City of Fridley, the Fridley Historical Society, and the Anoka County Library system for their work and welcome!



Anoka County Fair

July 24-29

Volunteers and staff welcomed old and new friends at the Farmhouse. Visitors chatted about history, enjoyed playing old games, and learned about the many facets of ACHS and the local history that lives all around us.



Nowthen Threshing Show

August 17-19

Candy, pickles and tractors, oh my! Volunteers traveled back to the 1920s in our General Store. A steady stream of kids popped in with their crumpled dollar bills and made difficult candy decisions as they tried to purchase the perfect combination of sweets.



I wanted to take time in this issue to give a big THANK YOU!!!! to all the volunteers who helped out at the history center and/or the various events we organized this summer. We logged our busiest summer yet. With Riverfest, the Anoka Home and Garden Tour, Fridley Home and Garden Tour, six days of the Anoka County Fair, three days of Anoka sidewalk sale, and three days of the Nowthen Threshing Show on top of all the time given by volunteers on a regular basis at the History Center, ***volunteers gave a record 1,784 hours of help*** from July 1 to August 19. That is the equivalent of six full time people working steadily for seven weeks. My mind is BLOWN AWAY by that amazing fact. There is no way we could have done it without your help. You help prove, with each of the 107,040 minutes you gave, that history is about more than dates, musty papers, and old stuff--it is about the people who lived here and those who are ambassadors for preserving our stories while creating history right now. (And that's you!) It may only seem like a second to you, but when we add all our seconds together, we suddenly have 6,422,400 seconds-- and by golly, that is something. 😊

Sara Given
Volunteer Coordinator
Sara@AnokaCountyHistory.org

Keep up with the Fun at ACHS!

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



Anoka County
Historical Society



AnokaCoHistory



AnokaCoHistory



HENNEPIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE INTERNS ROCK THE SUMMER!

Our three interns from Hennepin Technical College put in long hours as part of their summer class. With the direction and mentorship of their professor Rich Oxley, also an ACHS board member, the students spent seven weeks, three days a week, at the History Center creating videos showcasing the history and events here.

We will miss their focus and creativity as they set up cameras and lights, or searched out a quiet nook (harder on some days than others) to record voice-overs for the next episode.

Their videos reached thousands through the ACHS Facebook page. If you missed any episodes, the full library can be reached from our website: AnokaCountyHistory.org/2-minute-history/



2 Minute History Episodes

- World War II
- Garage of the Past
- Kline Sanitarium
- Anoka County Schools
- Jon Arfstrom
- Anoka County Housing Boom
- Anoka Riverfest, 2018
- Anoka Home and Garden Tour, 2018

GHOST TOURS ARE HERE!

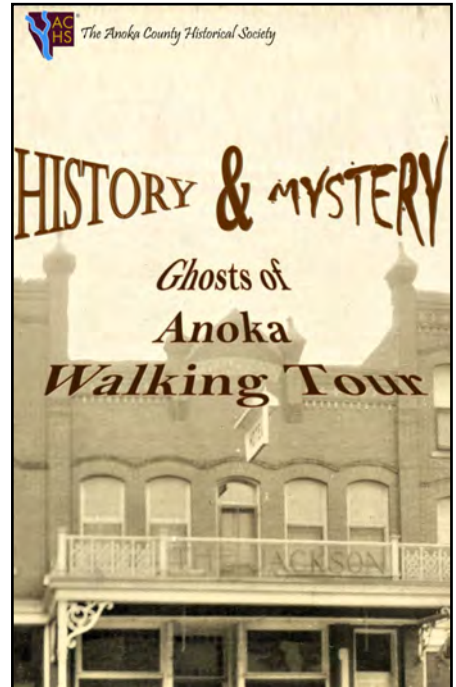
It's that time of year again! Head on out with a friend (or two or three) on a Ghost Tour this September or October.

Stories abound in Anoka of odd happenings and eerie encounters. Our costumed tour guides will take you on a walk through historic neighborhoods of Anoka, sharing stories of the past along the way.

Sixty percent history, 40 percent folklore; these stories are just part of the fun you will experience on your Ghosts of Anoka tour!

Tickets: \$9

Available at AnokaCountyHistory.org



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Mary Dawson
Janet Galvin
Bruce & Karen Gengnagel
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Visit the History Center! Open 5 days a week, FREE:

Tuesday 10 a.m.—8 p.m.
 Wednesday-Friday 10 a.m.—5 p.m.
 Saturday 10 a.m.— 4 p.m.

ACHS Board Meetings

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

Anoka County Genealogical Society Meeting

Meetings held at the Anoka County History Center.
 Email questions or suggestions to acgsmn@yahoo.com

Ghosts of Anoka Walking Tours

Various dates and times in September and October
 Tickets: \$9—available at AnokaCountyHistory.org

Creating History from Facts

Sept 22, 10 a.m.—Lino Lakes City Hall

Parlor Games

October 6, 10:30 a.m.—Rum River North Park Shelter

Virtual Ghost Tour

October 10, 6 p.m.—Ramsey City Hall
 Registration: cityoframsey.com/ParkEvents

History of Columbia Heights & Hilltop

October 13, 1 p.m.—Columbia Heights Library

Museum in a Box: WWI

November 8, 2 p.m.—Ramsey City Hall
 Registration: cityoframsey.com/ParkEvents

For more information on our programs, check out the Events section on the ACHS Facebook page.



ACHS Remembers



To those members, volunteers, friends, and neighbors who are no longer with us—you will be missed.

Harvey Greenberg
 1932-2018

Cindy Jorgenrud
 1950-2018

Kenneth Berghorst
 1927-2018



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Anoka County
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HISTORY 21

Volume 48 No.6 November-December 2018

Did you know there were 21 cities in the county?

AnokaCountyHistory.org

History 21 (in honor of the 21 cities in Anoka County) is published by the Anoka County Historical Society six times yearly as a member benefit. The ACHS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible within the allowable limits of the law.

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District 3: Orville Lindquist

District 4: Lotus Hubbard (Vice-Pres.)

District 5: Richard Oxley

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Jim Kordiak

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Table of Contents:

3 - Letters from the ACHS
President and Director

4 - Red Bull Deployment begins
TPT Production

6 - Meet the Gallatins

7 - Honoring a Legacy: Jim Kordiak

8 - Collections Corner: Front row
seat to NASA history

10 - ACHS Around Town

12 - Record breaking Ghost Tours!

13 - Volunteer World:
Truly AWE-some guides

14 - Thank You to Our Supporters

15 - Upcoming Events

Front Cover: John Daly Jr. holding Ken Daly on his lap while Marie Daly is standing behind John. The school bus that John Daly Sr. used to drive the neighborhood children to school in Anoka is at the right of the picture. John Daly Jr., Ken and Marie are the grandchildren of Francis Daly. December 1952. Photo taken at the Daly Farm in Andover. Object ID#: 534.1.09

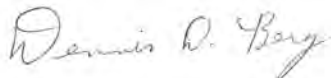
From the President

Saturday, February 15th of this year the Anoka County Historical Society board and staff spent a day in a workshop planning a strategy for the next three to five years. With the help of a facilitator, we discussed opportunities and challenges, where we need to improve, and what we do well.

One of the outcomes of that day was that our existing seven committees needed to be consolidated to four committees with each board member serving on one and only one committee. In consideration of board members' busy schedules and time commitments, committees would often meet one hour prior to the 7 p.m. full board meeting. Because members served on more than one committee there was a problem with some committees not being able to meet and thereby not getting their work done on time.

I am very proud of your ACHS board for their dedication and commitment in making the new governing structure work. Because most of the agenda items now come to the full board with a committee recommendation we have been able to reduce our board meeting time to approximately one hour.

Work critical to the success of ACHS, but not on the level of the Board of Directors, will shift to a task force of board members and volunteers. An example would be a fundraising event but could be any project that has an ending date.



Dennis Berg, ACHS President



From the Director

I would like to extend a huge thank you to all of the roughly 1,700 people who took time out of their evening to enjoy a ghost tour around the neighborhoods of Anoka. As we close our 15th year of conducting these tours, we are extremely grateful for the ongoing support of this fundraiser.

While it's a simple premise--storytelling onsite--the outpouring of interest resulted in a completely sold-out season. That's right. Every ticket for 83 tours. We will continue to update and adapt the tour to make it relevant for years to come so both new and experienced tour-goers will find something to enjoy.

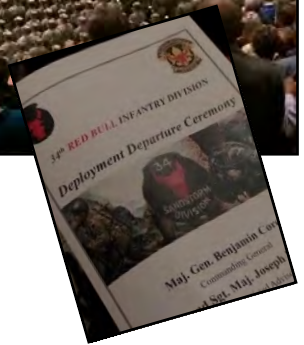


Rebecca Ebnet-Mavencamp, Executive Director



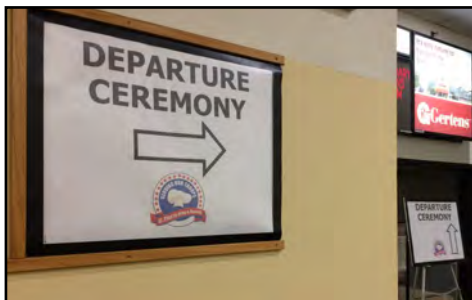
Red Bull deployment begins TPT production

On September 20, more than 650 soldiers, along with their family and friends, commemorated the start of a deployment to Kuwait with the Minnesota National Guard's 34th Red Bull Infantry Division in an elaborate send-off event that generated headlines throughout the news media community. "Serving Our Troops" hosted a meal with 45 buffet lines. Politicians and VIPs took the stage one after another to express their gratitude for the sacrifice and offer their best hopes for a smooth transition. Three days later, the soldiers boarded busses and waved goodbye to family and friends as their journey officially began.



ACHS recognizes that history happens every day, not just at the shiny, commemorative events. Documenting these stories as they are lived not only ensures an accurate portrayal of events, but also builds relationships that keep history relevant to future generations.

We began the Veterans Voice project with the intention of capturing the stories of veterans who have served since the Gulf War. With the advent of this deployment, which affects over 50 families in Anoka County, we decided to expand our project into an opportunity for the community to witness a deployment through the eyes of those living it. To see what doesn't get covered in the news media. To peek into the window of these individuals on their daily journey through a year without a loved one. To accomplish this, we have partnered with Twin Cities Public Television and the Red Bulls to film several families during the current deployment. We also invite the family





and friends of these individuals to submit short written pieces, video, and photos to ACHS. We will curate these submissions, along with updates from the Red Bulls, into a timeline on our website to provide a space for all the emotions and experiences of an overseas deployment to find a voice.

Attending the deployment ceremony as one of 5,000 individuals at Rivercentre and the Roy Wilkins Auditorium, ACHS staff and volunteers felt small and slightly overwhelmed by the sheer magnitude of the event. We also felt extreme gratitude that during these final days, in this situation of stress and anxiety, the families agreed to speak with us about our storytelling project. They expressed fears and concerns about the upcoming year, the past training periods, and shared details about their family situation. Many THANKED US (insert guilt here!) for coordinating this project

ACHS Board member Mary Nolan interacts with the soldiers and their families before and after the ceremony.



and helping them realize that indeed, their story matters.

For one family, this deployment marks their fourth tour. For another, her daughter just returned and now her husband will leave for a year. Several mothers sat with small children along the hallway amongst blankets and Legos, passing the time until the ceremony began. Emotionally spent people dozed with heads tilted back against the walls. Families stood in tight groups, creating small talk and laughing nervously. A deployment of this size will unite the families through a common experience. However, since the soldiers live in 228 different communities in 11 states, most will feel very isolated in their city. The families in Anoka County need to know they may be the only one in St. Francis, Ramsey, or Columbus in this situation, but they're certainly not forgotten by everyone...even if the large-scale events have concluded.

Special Thanks to our \$10,000 sponsors for making this TPT documentary possible



Meet the Gallatins

By Susan Thao

To many, like myself, deployment is a foreign word. I knew what it was, but to say that I understood the physical, emotional, or even psychological implications of that word, I didn't have a clue. Following the Gallatins



through this upcoming ten-month deployment as the production assistant has been eye-opening so far.

This documentary on the effects of military deployments involves the Gallatins – Sergeant Darcy, her husband Greg, and their 2-year-old twin boys – as the featured family. I met them two weeks before Darcy's deployment. I, along with the production crew, arrived at their Coon Rapids home unsure of what to expect, but as we pulled into their driveway, their dog welcomed us with lively barks.



The front door opened to a smiling woman. Darcy, I presumed. Behind her, two boys peeked out from behind the stairwells. Another woman stood alongside the boys, patting their heads, almost as a reassuring gesture. That was grandma; I could definitely tell.

After Greg rushed in from work, dinner soon came and the scent of sloppy joes pervaded the cozy home. When possible around the twins' activity, we talked of support systems and how Grandma and Aunt Amber would help with the daily tasks while Darcy was gone. After dinner, Darcy and Greg went on a walk around the neighborhood. Darcy mentioned she sang to the boys every night and Greg agreed it will be hard for them not to hear her voice. I pictured my parents and how much they were present for every moment of my life – birthdays, school dances, graduations, my wedding. They were there for it all. And yet, for these ten months, Darcy will not be able to physically be there for her boys.

"If you want, I can record you singing," my audio engineer asked.

Darcy's face lit up. "You would?"

The recording session only lasted a couple of minutes, but the last look I had of Darcy before we left said it all —

"We're ready."



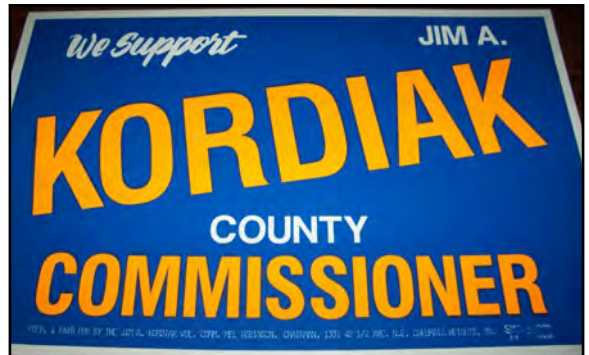
Honoring a Legacy:

Jim Kordiak

Perhaps during these last waning days of fall weather you strolled through a park in Columbia Heights bearing the name “Kordiak.” Or maybe your door has felt the rap of the County Commissioners knuckles *when it wasn't an election year*. Still, maybe you had a question regarding policy or spending at the County level and entered into a genuine conversation with a man whose family name held a seat in the board room for 64 years.

Regardless of how you know Jim Kordiak, it's safe to say his dedication and service to Anoka County goes unquestioned. Raised with his immigrant roots well-defined, Kordiak served both as a juvenile probation officer and as an income tax and real estate expert. He stepped into the role of County Commissioner in 1986 while he continued to maintain his business ventures. His long list of achievements sounds impressive and as he says, “even I would stand up for all of that!” He focused on continuing his father's work in establishing the park system, while also addressing recycling and solid waste, pushing for high-speed internet access, and commuter rail. Among those accolades are the 2013 Park and Recreation Board and Commission Award, Best Local Elected Recycling Leader from the National Recycling Coalition, and the Top Dog award from the Fridley Lions.

Jim Kordiak has also served as a liaison between the Commissioners and the ACHS Board of Directors. This role has provided both boards with communication and insight that would otherwise not have occurred as seamlessly. ACHS would like to extend our gratitude and congratulations to Jim Kordiak as he begins his adventure in retirement (or at least post-real-life-work!). We know you'll keep busy in Florida and have our fingers crossed to receive a post card while we're knee-deep in snow here. It's been a pleasure working with you!



Alexander (Al) Springer was a typical boy growing up in Anoka in the mid-20th century. Formal portrait photographs reveal a light-haired, smiling child who attended Franklin Elementary School in the early 1950s, and Springer went on to Anoka High School and a school football career. Part of the Junior Achievement program in Minnesota, designed to prepare young people for jobs in business, he met Dawn Ryman, who soon became his girlfriend and later his wife. Out of high school, Springer joined the Navy, where he would have a brush with astronomical fame.



We know all of this because Al Springer, still an Anoka resident and a long-time member of ACHS, recently brought us a photograph album and allowed us to scan images and documents to tell his story. More importantly, he took the time to sit down with the Archivist and add his memories to the images – the story that not even an image can fully capture.

Springer's memories give extra depth to photographs and newspaper clippings that, while interesting in themselves, tell only part of the story. A small clipping tells us that he played football in high school; memory recalls that Springer really enjoyed playing, that the team was All-Conference in 1959, and that Coaches Wayne Deetz and Stan Nelson said Springer was the best lineman they had.

A prom photograph shows Springer and then-girlfriend Dawn Ryman dressed to the nines, and a 1962 wedding invitation marks the beginning of their marriage. Memory provides the details that are missing: the two met in the Junior Achievement program,



where Springer was a production manager for the manufacture of “snicky-snack,” small statues made of bottle caps and plates meant for hanging jewelry on. Springer took to offering Ryman drives home after work...which her father approved only if Springer removed his Elvis-inspired sideburns. Springer considered that more than a fair trade, and the sideburns are noticeably absent in their 1958 prom photo. The Springers are still happily married more than 50 years later.

Springer's time in the Navy also provides stories. Stationed primarily at Quonset Point, Rhode Island, he achieved the rank of Storekeeper Third Class before he was discharged to the Naval Reserve in 1962. But photographs from the album and Springer himself provide more interesting detail. His squadron of fighter pilots and other personnel, VS22, was assigned in 1961 to the aircraft carrier USS Lake Champlain. Springer already had a personal connection with the ship: his uncle, a WWII veteran of the Normandy invasion, had returned to the United States on the carrier. He himself would soon have a memorable experience on board.

Springer's first photographs taken on May 5, 1961 don't show much; looking out over the Atlantic Ocean and clear sky, all that can be seen is a small dark speck in the distance, later carefully circled on the prints. But Springer remembers the event clearly. The dark speck was the Freedom 7 space capsule of NASA's Mercury program, and inside it was Alan Shepard, the first U.S. citizen in space. As the photographs progress, the Marine Corps helicopters that retrieved Shepard and the shuttle come nearer, eventually depositing shuttle and pilot onto the deck of the USS Lake Champlain, assigned to Shepard's retrieval. Other photographs, copies of those taken by official photographers, also fill Springer's album, showing Shepard himself and the capsule up close. But it is Springer's photos, with the dark speck gradually coming closer and the crowd on deck watching the descent and retrieval, that provide a personal look at this Anokan's brush with the space program.

Photographs, documents, and other artifacts are an important part of any historical collection, whether it is stored in a museum or your own home. The stories that go with them – knowledge or memories that only you might have – are equally if not more important, bringing the artifacts to life and providing a connection for someone else to find.



Collections Programing coming in 2019

Keep an eye out, a series of programs highlighting preservation, family archiving and working with our new database Collective Access are coming to Tuesday evenings next year. Specific dates are TBD, but if you have any topic requests let us know!

Creating History from Facts

Thanks to our partnership with the Anoka County Library, ACHS held a session on writing historical fiction and creative nonfiction. One simple way to rid yourself of that pesky writer's block involves reading *just enough* of a diary to pique your curiosity. Next, picture yourself sharing a cup of coffee or a meal with

the individual. What questions would you ask them? What are they wearing? How do they hold their napkin? Do they slouch? Do they touch their hair or adjust their glasses? Write these observations down, then read more of the diary. What did you learn? Do you have more questions for them or did you find answers? Picture them once more across the table from you. Is their speech pattern similar to their writing? Do they smile? Why would they experience the emotion they do at that moment? What do the events of their past have to do with their interaction with you?



Need a diary? Let us know and we'll give you a copy of J.W. Groat's manuscript to explore. We would love to see what you've written--drop us a note!



Hennepin Technical College

Hennepin Technical College: National Register Series underway

Our partnership with Hennepin Technical College continues with a new and amazing group of students this fall. Under the supervision of their instructor and ACHS Board member, Rich Oxley, they have filmed and interviewed people and properties associated with the National Register of Historic Places. These short documentaries will help residents explore their community and better understand the gems of preservation within our borders.





Monster City Display

For the month of October, Monsters invaded the lobby of the Anoka County History Center. Frankenstein, the Mummy, the ghoulish, and the ghastly came from David Barnhill's collection of over 200,000 items.

A self-proclaimed monster aficionado, Barnhill started his love of all things monster in the early 1960s. In 2014 he and Stephen Yogi Rueff co-founded Super Monster City to celebrate America's monsters, superheroes and villains.

On October 23 Barnhill and Yogi Rueff were joined by Tory Arfstrom-Ferréy at the history center. Together they discussed the fascination we have with the weird and the strange, from the monster toys to the surreal art of Jon Arfstrom. What is it about monsters that we find so intriguing? Attendees participated in a meaningful, enjoyable discussion.



History of Columbia Heights & Hilltop Program

On October 13 over 81 people joined ACHS Archivist Audra at the new Columbia Heights Public Library for a program highlighting the history of two Anoka County cities. The program followed both cities' history from their inclusion as Manomin County through their incorporations and the hidden, unique stories that make both a special part of our Local History.



What Used to Be Tour

A recent group of homeschool students and their respective adults joined Sara and Audra at the History Center for an exclusive look at Anoka History. After exploring behind the scenes storage areas with Audra, Sara took them to the streets. With the help of photographs, they explored all the buildings that are no more. They visited the Old Court House, Carnegie Library, the first Anoka City Hall and the Lincoln-Washburn Flour Mill. All long gone, but still in our historical memory.



Ghost Tour Craziness!

The months of September and October translate into GHOST TOURS in our ACHS dictionary. The 15th year of tours broke all attendance records! Over



1,700 people attended the 83 tours we hosted over the course of these two months. Many came from Anoka County, but others travelled from across the metro area, and a few even from beyond the state. Groups of friends, the Coon Rapids Women of Today, Anoka Women of Today, Sisters in Crime Murder Mystery Writers, Girl Scout Troops, and Anoka Halloween Ambassadors and Candidates all attended the tour in large groups.

The tour is a fun evening walking around town hearing stories of history and mystery, but it is also one of our biggest fund raisers of the year. Each \$9 ticket purchase directly supports our organization. With the majority of tours completely SOLD OUT, sometimes weeks in advance, our chance to grow this popular tour for the 16th year is clear.



BOOS AND BREWS II

Back for a second year of spooky networking, ACHS partnered with the Metro North Chamber of Commerce for an evening event in Anoka. Social hour began at Lyric Arts then participants broke into three groups to explore the history and mystery of a mini-Ghost Tour. The 50 guests reconvened at ACHS for a taco bar from Casa Rio, history scavenger hunt, and more social networking time.



I love all of our amazing ACHS volunteers, but at the end of October, I am in awe of our volunteer Ghost Tour Guides. Each guide gave time on their evenings and weekends throughout these past two months, found fun costumes, mastered ghost stories and local history from a 50 page script, and led tours of up to 25 people each in rain, wind, or shine. The tours are a chance for ACHS and local history to put on a great show, and it is the first introduction many have to the fact that Anoka County has a museum and historical society. These docents are truly ambassadors who are remembered by guests long after they say goodnight to each tour.

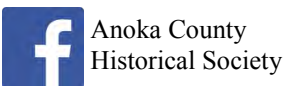
Always wanted to be a Guide? Love making new friends, telling stories and giving something a little flare for the dramatic?

Talk to me about joining the ranks of these Halloween Heroes! 😊

Sara Given
Volunteer Coordinator
Sara@AnokaCountyHistory.org

Keep up with the Fun at ACHS!

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



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 Saturday 10 a.m.— 4 p.m.

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 Open to membership and the public.

Anoka County Genealogical Society Meeting

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What to do at Tea Time: Parlor Games

November 4, 2 p.m.—Northtown Library

Museum in a Box: WWI

November 8, 2 p.m.—Ramsey City Hall
 Registration: cityoframsey.com/ParkEvents

The Star Wars Holiday Special

December 4 — Anoka History Center
 Open House 5 p.m.– 8 p.m.
 Program at 6 p.m.

For more information on our programs, check out the Events section on the ACHS Facebook page.



ACHS will be closed on the following dates:

November 17 for Rebecca Ebnet-Mavencamp's Wedding
 November 22, 23 for Thanksgiving
 December 25 for Christmas
 January 1 for New Years Day



ACHS Remembers



To those members, volunteers, friends, and neighbors who are no longer with us—you will be missed.

E. Lou Morse
 1924-2018

Roy Downs
 1925-2018

Jim Marsolais
 1941-2018



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