



ACHS[®]
Anoka County
Historical Society



HISTORY 21

Volume 49 No.1 January-February 2019

Did you know there are 21 communities 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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Front Cover: Coon Rapids Snowflake Days buttons dating from 1980, 1982, 1983, 1985, and 1987

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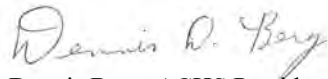
From the President

In anticipation of the board working on goals for 2019, I reviewed the goals from prior years. The one constant goal of your board over the years has been the need for county wide identity and outreach. The support we get from our host city of Anoka, which we greatly appreciate, has created an image for some that we are more localized.

In reviewing the past year I'm very pleased to report that making this goal a priority was very successful in 2018. We now have more dedicated space in local newspapers for a full, illustrated spread of history and current events at ACHS. We added the nursing home programs in Andover, Ramsey and surrounding areas. We participated in county wide Chamber of Commerce events and expanded our school programs to private and home school groups. By expanding our outreach we also hope to increase membership which is the life blood of our organization.

The outreach has been a contributing factor to the early success of the fundraising effort for our Veteran Voice project. We have already accomplished over 85% of our \$60,000 goal, a major portion coming from first time supporters and new members.

For 2019 our goal will be to continue our outreach efforts by partnering with local non-profits and other organizations to bring our shared history to life in an effort to grow our membership.



Dennis Berg, ACHS President



From the Director

The present is the past of the future. Our actions of today influence our decisions of tomorrow, just as the events of today will only be remembered if we take the time to document them. With the flurry of activity that ushered out an era of Kordiak family leadership in the Fridley/Columbia Heights area, so too has the publicity occurred ushering in Mandy Meisner to take the seat as County Commissioner of District 4. We are excited to announce Mandy will serve as liaison for the Historical Society, continuing the tradition of communication and partnership we value so highly.

Welcome, Mandy! We're looking forward to the future.



Rebecca Ebnet-Desens, Executive Director



The Philolectian Clock

By Chuck Zielin

Becoming a new volunteer at the Anoka County Historical Society was a challenge; how could I contribute? My interviewer, Sara, quickly answered the question. With my background in antique clock restoration I could help them bring back to life the Philolectian Society's grandfather clock. It could then be used in the rededication of the Philolectian Room at the History Center. As a side note, I discovered that this clock is the second donated by the Philolectian Society to the library after they organized in 1892. (Does anyone know anything about the first, 'ugly' clock? Please let us know if you do.)

Before getting into a discussion of the clock, I believe a few words about the Philolectian Society are in order. The Philolectian Society was instrumental in bringing the library to a "culturally and geographically isolated Anoka." To break out of this isolation they saw the "great propensities for social, civic and cultural advancement" that a library could provide. They were/are "lovers of learning" and their tool was a free lending library. Through many activities, they reached out to the community to motivate the city fathers to take advantage of new state levy laws. In 1903 a commitment was made. The sum of all this action was the Carnegie Library Building of 1904 with an original commitment for 10 years. The Carnegie Building lasted until 1965, but community support for a library has continued to this day, thanks in large measure to the Philolectian Society.

In the dedication of the Carnegie Building, the Philolectian Society donated this clock. It first stood in the lower level area known as the Philolectian



*Carnegie Library, at the corner of Third Ave
and Jackson St., Anoka*



Chuck working on the timing mechanism of one of the Grandfather clocks in the ACHS collection.

Room. Then, in 1965, it was moved to the new library building on Third Avenue and occupied a position in the fireside room. When the building came to house the Historical Society, the room was renamed the Philolectian Room, though the clock was placed in storage. As ACHS has worked to create new exhibit panels for the room, it seemed only proper to have this artifact once again prominently displayed.

Hidden in the depths of the storage area, I retrieved the clock just before Christmas. It hadn't been

serviced in many years and needed a total refreshing of all its components.

I identified the clock as a 1904 Ansonia Long Case. It has a time and strike movement and is powered by two weights: one for the time gear side and one for the strike side. Its crown, with inner facing curved wings and ornate brass finials is classic 19th century. The time piece hood, waist, and base feature square and rectangle lines of the Arts and Crafts Movement. Having a square stamped face with no arch at the top also reflects this latter movement. However, the large silvered time ring and the smaller second ring, along with the scrolled spandrels (corners) and center circle reflect the earlier style. Finally, the solid straight oak wood cuts are key to the Arts and Crafts design. One can easily consider these case design features to be hybrid and transitional.

In refurbishing the case, I intended to remove the collected grime and old cracked varnish without damaging the patina. This was accomplished through hand work using a solvent and steel wool before I sealed the wood with a flat finish. I tried to split the difference between the purist who would have left it as found and the revivalist who would have stripped it and then refinished it.

I cleaned, polished, and sealed three brass finials, the two weights, and pendulum bob, as well as cleaning and adjusting the timepiece.

Our timepiece is of a high-quality brass and is of a common Ansonia design dating to the second half of the 19th century. The weights are of a plain design and are raised by pulling down the chains every seven or eight days. The gong striker is a small brass hammer attached to the timepiece strike arm and has a leather insert to soften the sound. The actual gong is a curled rod common to most Ansonia Time and Strike clocks. Penciled dates



Preparing to refurbish the clock case on a table in the Philolectian room.

on the timepiece carriage indicate the clock was serviced some eight times: March 2, 1905; April 3, 1908; February 25, 1915 RNB; March 4, 1918 PHB; January 9, 1935 Saudberg; January 3, 1954 AL, April 17, 1957, and May 31, 1999 Tom Burns. A ninth date could now be added: December 27, 2018 CZ.

The finished product now proudly stands in the Philolectian Room at the Anoka County Historical Society. It is running smoothly and keeping good time.

Thank you, Philolectian Society, for this beautiful symbol of your contributions over these many years.



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PHILOLECTIAN BEGINNINGS

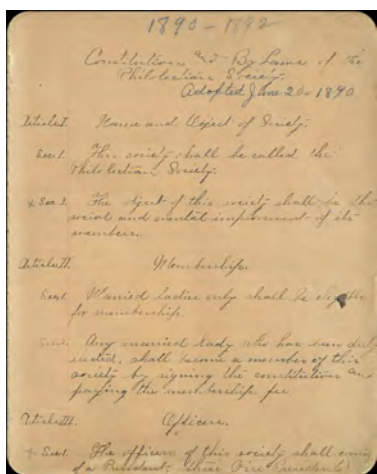
On June 20, 1890 a dozen members of the Anoka Ladies Social Club met and officially reorganized as the Philolectian Society. This new group, dedicated to the “social and mental improvement of its members,” maintained the same officers as previously elected—thus, Dr. Flora Aldrich became the First President.

The society met every other Friday afternoon from 3 to 5 p.m., rotating homes though their membership. Each woman paid an admission fee of 50 cents in addition to quarterly dues of 25 cents to maintain their status within the organization. Potential members had to be married and elected by ballot, receiving no more than two dissenting votes.

Article nine of the bylaws states that “All entertainments and meetings of the society must be of such a character that all members can participate.”

Activities included the selection and reading of educational articles, picnics at Crooked Lake with ice-cream, lectures on the platforms of Republican and Democratic parties, as well as efforts to bring their love of learning to the city of Anoka.

The Philolectian organization made the creation of a free public library in the city of Anoka one of their central goals. Members knocked on doors asking for donations while pushing a political campaign forward to ensure the success of this venture. As a result, the city council issued a tax



First page of the *Philolectian Constitution and Bylaws, 1890.*

levy and appointed a nine member library board.

The members of this board rented three second-story rooms at the corner of Main Street and Second Avenue, just above Ticknor & Co. Drug Store. The doors opened to patrons of the first Anoka City Library on December 6, 1893, but books weren't issued until Jan. 23, 1894.

The library quickly outgrew this space, prompting J.E. Douglas of Anoka to write to Andrew Carnegie in 1903 asking for a public library building. He agreed, on the condition that the city should supply \$1,250 per year for 10 years for the support of the library. The building, located at the corner of Jackson Street and Third Avenue, opened December 6, 1904 and stood until 1966 when it was razed and the next city library opened its doors.

The final city library operated from 1965 to 2000 on Third Avenue. The Anoka County Historical Society moved into this building when the Rum River Library opened.



Above: First Anoka City Library, circa 1894. Below: ACHS building as City Library in 1973.



PHILOLECTIAN ROOM REDEDICATION

You're warmly invited to the rededication of The Philolectian Room at the

Anoka County History Center. With a permanent exhibit featuring the group's beginnings, their library legacy, and the newly refurbished Philolectian Grandfather Clock, the room will be available to visitors throughout the year.

When: March 13

Time: 1 p.m.—3 p.m. Open House

2019 begins a series of years with important centennial anniversaries for Anoka County organizations and businesses. We will be celebrating here at the History Center with the “We Are 100” exhibit series, beginning with the local chapter of the League of Women Voters.

As the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution passed by Congress in 1919, it then began the ratification process, with the final needed state ratifying it in 1920. Minnesota ratified the 19th Amendment on September 8, 1919, and the women’s suffrage movement here could then adjust its efforts in a different but related direction:



helping to educate women about their new voting ability.

The Minnesota Women Suffrage Association reincorporated as the League of Women Voters, Minnesota in October 1919, and local chapters began to form, including one in Anoka with Nellie (Erickson) Peterson as President (pictured at left). She wrote to the *Anoka Union* after final ratification in 1920, pleased with the victory, but encouraging women to exercise their newly-gained voting rights. Many women did, with about 40% of the Minnesota vote in the 1920 election coming from women. Others went further: a charter member of the League, Minnie (Hill) Beatty, also served as the first female election judge chair in her Anoka ward in 1922. Another local chapter, located in Columbia Heights, was also formed in the following

years.

The LWV Anoka chapter was permanently re-established in 1938 by Mary Spurzem, and promptly got to work on local issues that needed to be addressed. (The Anoka chapter merged with the Coon Rapids and Blaine chapters in 1979, to become the LWV-ABC chapter.) In 1940, they successfully worked to organize garbage collection throughout the city of Anoka, and later got trash cans placed on public sidewalks throughout the city as well. Also in 1940, LWV began one of their longest-running programs: that of candidate forums. These forums allow candidates for local and state political office to make their positions clear, helping ensure voters are educated on the issues and discern which candidates support or oppose them.

From the beginning, the LWV has also made strong efforts to register as many citizens as possible to vote. Getting women registered was important in the early years of suffrage, and since then they have made sure to focus on groups of citizens who have recently gained the right to vote: high school students turning 18 and new citizens at naturalization ceremonies.

Local League members have made other voting-related efforts over the years. In 1990, legislation was passed in Minnesota allowing those with long-term disabilities or illnesses to register as permanent absentee voters, so that they would receive an absentee

ballot application automatically for each election. The push for this legislation was made by LWV-ABC member Sandra Shanley, who herself suffered from Multiple Sclerosis, so that citizens whose physical mobility was limited would be able to exercise their voting rights more easily.

In addition to these Voter Services, LWV-ABC follows the League practice of studying various topics of concern to citizens, learning about an issue over the course of two years. Following this period of study and consideration, the chapter will then adopt an official position on that topic. Positions can be held at the local, state, or national level.

Local League chapters also pursue other projects in the community. The ACHS exhibit examines these as well, looking at the Bee Safe and Pollinators projects that the LWV-ABC chapter undertook in 2004 and 2015, respectively.

Another development for the League over the years was the eventual inclusion of men. While initially only women were allowed to join the LWV, that later changed. Fred Strobel became the first male member of the LWV-ABC in 1974.

Participation in the League has also led many women into local and state offices over the years, or coincided with their time in office. Some notable names include: Zilla Way, Susan Anderson, Kathy Tingelstad, Natalie Haas Steffen, and Margaret Langfeld.

Join us beginning on January 19, 2019 to learn more about the League of Women Voters, and help us kick off the “We Are 100” centennial celebrations.



EXHIBIT OPENING!

You're warmly invited to the official opening of The League of Women Voters exhibit. Come celebrate their history of advocacy, civic mindfulness, and election promotion with us. We are excited to tell this story thanks to a partnership between ACHS and our local League of Women Voters—Anoka, Blaine, Coon Rapids Area.

WHEN: January 19

TIME: 2—4 p.m. *program at 2:30 p.m.*

WHERE: Anoka County History Center





TPT Production Update

By Luke Heikkila
Producer, Twin Cities PBS

January

A sigh of relief

It is January in Minnesota. If you're like me you breathe a sigh of relief. January in Minnesota means the days are getting a little longer, maybe soon I will be driving home from work in the daylight.

January means the Holidays are behind me. The wrapping. The cooking. The planning. Weeks of preparation that was put to waste in one 24-hour period won't happen again until next year. I've breathed more than one sigh of relief since.

If you're like me, more daylight and the Holidays being but a memory is enough to get you through to the next goal, whatever it may be.

If you're like me, you're not in the military nor do you have a family member living on a military base either stateside, or overseas. If you're like me, your family is living under one roof, or they are just a short drive away.

Unlike me, perhaps you have a military connection. You have a spouse, child, or parent in the military and they are far away from home. The Holiday season may have been gut-wrenching. You had an empty chair at the table, an empty stocking on the mantel. Maybe you had to drive to Mass when your spouse is the one that usually does that. Maybe it was up to you to shop for the gifts when you usually don't need to. The snow shoveling. Worrying about ice-dams. The decorating. Keeping things normal for your kids. Maybe it feels like you didn't breathe all month.

This Holiday season, and for the foreseeable future, you have had more to worry about than having enough tape to wrap gifts and enough powdered sugar to make frosting for the cookies. You worried non-stop about a loved one's safety and waited for a call on New Year's Eve. The phone rang. You sighed.

As part of a documentary Twin Cities PBS is producing with the Anoka County Historical Society, I am able to interview residents of Anoka County who are either currently experiencing a military deployment or have done so in the past. In doing so, I am learning this is a time of year in Minnesota that is increasingly difficult for families of



Scott Collier tells Luke Heikkila about his experience leaving his newborn to serve.



Dale and Joyce Melcher discuss what it's like to have their granddaughter serving in Kuwait.

next goal of being reunited because they must.

After the deployment is served and the family is reunited, some say the real work begins. The distraction of the deployment passes, and the focus is on reconnecting. The first year back together can be more difficult than the previous year spent apart. This reintegration takes time. The family has learned to fix faucets, shovel driveways, and conquer once unfamiliar errands. They have new routines and different abilities than they did before the deployment. The veterans I have spoken to learned to realize this and were mindful not to disrupt the family's newly found balance upon their return.

When this project is completed in the summer of 2019, it is my hope viewers will see these stories and the storytellers as examples of resilience, strength, and commitment. The storytellers are men and women who can help us all understand how to prepare for and overcome challenges. They can teach us all to trust that no matter our obstacle, with help and through resiliency, sooner-or-later we can all begin to breathe our own sigh of relief.

Special Thanks to our sponsors for making this TPT documentary possible!

\$10,000 SPONSORS



\$2,000 SPONSORS:

SPRING LAKE PARK LIONS
VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
CHAPTER 470
DENNIS AND DARLENE BERG

Parade of Projects



*When: March 24
2-4 p.m.*

*Where: Anoka County
History Center*

Come celebrate the close of another year in history!

In addition to the announcement of our newly elected Board members and a short business meeting to approve the 2018 Annual Report, we will bring to life the projects and programs that meant the most to us.

Jell-O Cookoff — Show us your best jiggle!

You've done it with chili, now do it with Jello-O! No family gathering in the Midwest is complete without fruit, fluff, and that magical jiggle.

Enter your best Jell-O salad, dessert, or dish for a chance to win prizes for:

- ◇ **Best in Fluff**
- ◇ **Best Fruit Suspension**
- ◇ **Best Family Story**
- ◇ **Best Photo Entry (the older the better)**

We will have games like Jiggler toss and Jell-O Jeopardy as well the tastings, of course! Mark your calendars for this fundraiser:

April 27 at 2 p.m.





ACHS VOLUNTEERS! The promised time has come—we are now equipped with an internet connection! Yes, we could access the interwebs before, but you often had time to get a snack between uploads. **NO MORE!** Before Christmas three technicians descended on the History Center for six hours to update our wired connection. This ended up being a larger job than we anticipated

with our high ceilings! While many of our historical artifacts are from a pre-computer era, the care and cataloging of them need computers and the internet, as our database is now cloud-based. Your help as volunteers supports the ACHS in so many ways, I'm happy to say we can support you with an updated connection and computers.

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



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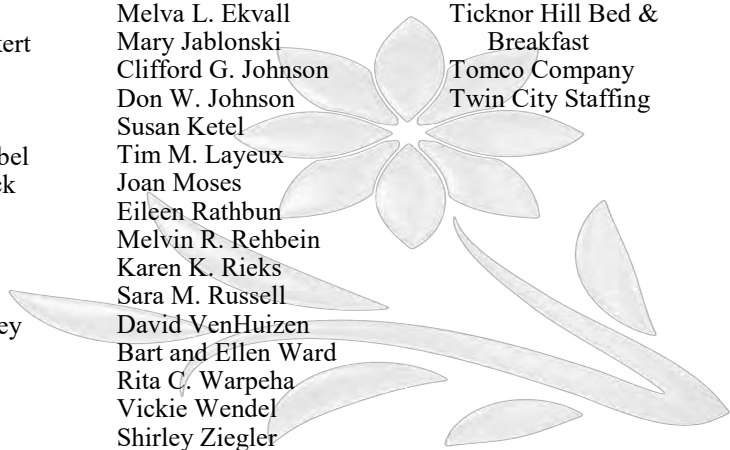
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Y**

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

League of Women Voters Exhibit Opening

January 19, 2-4 p.m. *program at 2:30 p.m.*
 Anoka County History Center

Philolectian Room Rededication

March 13, 1-3 p.m. *program at 1:30 p.m.*
 Anoka County History Center

Annual Meeting

March 24, 2-4 p.m.
 Anoka County History Center

Jell-O Cookoff: Show Us Your Best Jiggle

April 27, 2-4 p.m.
 Location TBD

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

Look for our cooking series *Best of the Blessed*, coming to you soon on YouTube! We're taking fabulous recipes from our church cookbook collection and whipping them up for you to enjoy (on screen, at least).

Don't forget to drop by QCTV online to find the latest episode of *It's Your History*.



ACHS Remembers

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

Lenwood Lambert Sr.
 1925-2018

John Reynolds
 1935-2018



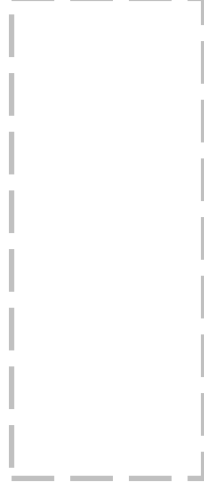
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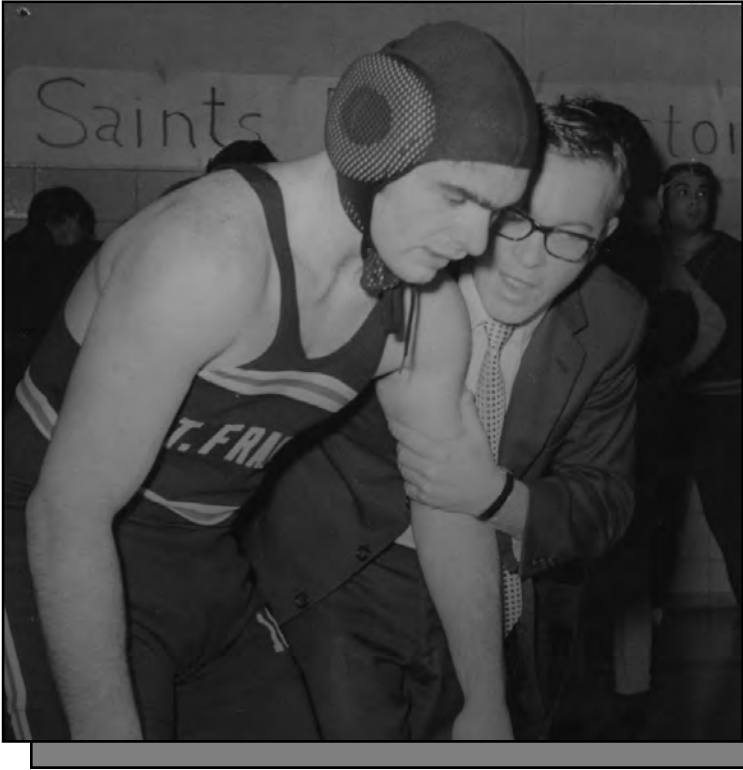
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Anoka County
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HISTORY 21

Volume 49 No.2 March-April 2019

Indivisible...except by 1, 3, and 7

AnokaCountyHistory.org

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER



Have you ever experienced one of those periods in life when everything connected with your identity shifts? Within one year, I battled health issues, got married, moved, graduated a kid, and moved her to study at a university. Well, we're assuming the last two will happen still in 2019 (check back in September!)

The identity of the Anoka County Historical Society seems to be shifting, too. Nothing dramatic, we're not moving! But the Veterans Voice project and partnership with Twin Cities Public Television will produce a national documentary that will hoist our little history center to a new and exciting level. We have big ideas for a new website that's easier to use, as well as a new multi-touch digital table for the exhibit hall to bring depth and interest to our displays. All this, in addition to our quality programs, preservation, and research work we're known for.

I will celebrate my fourth anniversary as director at this annual meeting. It feels like we've done the groundwork, we've built the relationships, and we've set the goals. Now, we get to watch it all come together. Thank you for being the reason any of it can, and will, happen. Our members and donors remain the core of our mission.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rebecca Ebnet-Desens". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Rebecca Ebnet-Desens, ACHS Executive Director

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I am often asked what the Anoka County Historical Society does, and what surprises me is the paradigm that we record history from the past and it has to predate our lifetime. In reality what you did today, if recorded, is history. It's true that we collect and preserve the history of Anoka County. However, collection is only possible if someone recognized the value of recording it while the information was available.

As an example, in 2002 the Anoka County Board of Commissioners recognized that Anoka County had, in a short period of time, lost 60% of its family farms. With a goal of preserving the history of agriculture in Anoka County, the county board and the Anoka County Extension service funded the historical society for a two-year project that compiled and published the history of agriculture in Anoka County from 1900 to 2003. Agriculture at one time was the lifeblood of Anoka County. Today, for the most part, it is history. If we would not have recorded it when we still had some family farms to interview and photograph, that history would be lost.

ACHS stands ready to preserve your history, individual, family, business or non-profit. We can help with the recording, but we need you to come in and share your information with us.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dennis R. Berg". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

Dennis Berg, ACHS President

LIVE! A YEAR IN REVIEW: THE ACHS ANNUAL MEETING

Another year has gone by and it's time to gather and celebrate! We're hesitant to call it a meeting, since we're going to have lots of laughs presenting the projects and programs that made ACHS successful in 2018. Curious about the Veterans Voice project? Catch a sneak peek of the TPT documentary premiering this summer. How about the bump in Ghost Tour attendance? How did we increase our volunteer activity so much? The Collections top your list? Find all of our interesting things in Collective Access. Come find out when ACHS goes LIVE! at this annual meeting.



WHEN: Sunday, March 24, 2019
TIME: 2-4 p.m.
WHERE: Anoka County History Center,
2135 Third Ave N, Anoka

The Board of Directors will conduct a short business meeting to announce the election winners and formally accept the annual report. Members will receive this report prior to the meeting, in addition to election ballots. Light Refreshments will be served.



ACHS Board Elections

BALLOTS ARE IN THE MAIL AND WE NEED YOUR VOTE!

Remember to place your name and address on the outside envelope (not inside one) so we can confirm your status as a voting member.

Ballots must be returned by March 21, 5 p.m.



2018 ANNUAL REPORT



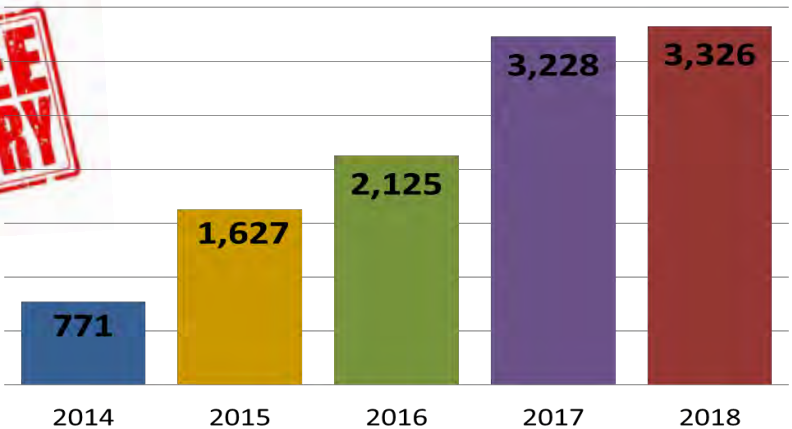
THE GARAGE



The final installment in our *Farms to Flamingos* exhibit depicting Anoka County in the 1950's, 60's, and 70's captured the iconic garage. Archivist Audra, staff member Don, and volunteers raised walls with exposed studs and created a "concrete" floor.

Donors then filled the space with the detritus of life from that time-period. New suburban homes meant yards to tend, space to work on mechanical projects, and a place to store all those extra nails or screws in baby food jars. Opened to coincide with the Anoka Home and Garden Tour on July 15, the Garage has kept up with the seasons as ice skates and a sled joined the bike and basketball.

EXHIBIT HALL VISITORS





COLLECTIVE ACCESS



A large part of managing the collections at ACHS is maintaining not just the items, but the database where information about the items can be stored and searched. After 14 years using a program called Past Perfect, we needed a more accessible, non-subscription, cloud-based system. Along came an opportunity to join the Minnesota Alliance of

Local History Museums [MALHM] to help create one! MALHM is a state-wide organization where local museums of all sizes can come together to collaborate on projects, expand their learning, search out solutions to problems, and find common ground. With the help of a Legacy grant, MALHM created a museum software database that could be used by any museum in the state, called Collective Access. ACHS became a pilot site, which allowed us to migrate our data, make suggestions, and test out the functionality of this brand new system.

The database allows staff and volunteers to access to the info from any computer with an internet connection. This has allowed volunteers to take laptops into odd corners to work on projects, or even work from home. The information is stored on the cloud, which instituted a much-needed off-site backup in the event of catastrophic damage to the museum.

The long-term goal of ACHS and MAHLM is to turn this database into a system the general public can access from the comfort of their personal devices—anytime, anywhere.



Public facing and searchable database



This year has been exciting for working on the ACHS collections! Not only have we continued to receive many donations of interesting Anoka County artifacts for the museum, but we are gradually getting new and better tools to help improve the preservation of all our artifacts.

Audra Hilse, Archivist & Administrator

NATIONAL REGISTER PROPERTY SERIES CONTINUES!

Last year we began our National Register Property Series



by writing MNopedia articles on each. This year, we expanded access to them with a video project. Our partnership with the Hennepin Technical College continues thanks to an amazing group of students this fall. Under the supervision of their instructor and ACHS Board member, Rich Oxley, they 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.



Shaw-Hammons ...



Kline Sanitarium - ...



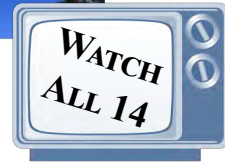
Anoka Post Office ...



Anoka-Champlin ...



Carlos Avery Gam...



ARFSTROM GRANT WRAP UP

ACHS received a \$10,000 grant from the Historical and Cultural Heritage Fund (Legacy grants) and additional funds from the Arfstrom family to digitize a portion of the illustrated diaries kept by Jon Arfstrom. These not only track his daily life, but also

his artistic ideas and doodles. They are truly pieces of art in their own right. Preservation of his legacy continues as ACHS takes a seat at the Arfstrom Family Foundation board of directors with other stakeholders. Look for new exhibits, publications, and program opportunities ahead!

2018 COLLECTIONS HIGHLIGHTS

Rehousing files from Attorney Albert Pratt, 1890 to 1920. This includes wills, property disputes, divorces, and murder cases.



Digitizing and rehousing the large map collection from vertical rolled storage to horizontal which puts less stress on the item.



Intern Delaney organized five large bins of Nowthen history, and started her graduate degree from Simmons University.

PHILOLECTIAN PERMANENT EXHIBIT

A multi-year renovation of our Philolectian meeting room culminated in 2018 with the installation of photo and text panels that highlight the legacy of this 129 year-old womens group. Volunteer Chuck restored the Philolectian clock, which now reminds us when to stop our meetings with a lovely sounding chime.



2018 PARTNERSHIPS

Our partners provide ACHS with new connections to the community and a wider audience reach as well as a fresh approach to storytelling.

*I found a great job doing construction & the public computers at the Anoka Historical Society made it all possible - Thank You Guys
-Ray E*

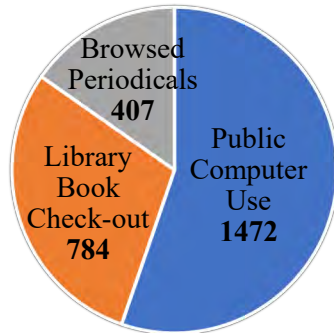
ANOKA COUNTY LIBRARY

The ACHS building is officially the Anoka County History Center and Research Library. We house a museum, but still remain a part of the County Library system. Patrons can choose ACHS as a pick up location for library books, and for a significant number of people, the public computers here are the only access they have to the internet. Those that visit for these services become “regulars,” friends and part of our community. Their story has melded with ours and our ability to offer these services is essential.

14,812

**HISTORY CENTER
VISITORS**

Equal to the populations of St. Francis &
Spring Lake Park combined



ANOKA COUNTY: THANK YOU

It is with deep gratitude that ACHS acknowledges the role played by the County in continuing to fund a large portion of the History Center operations: **the equivalent of 44 cents per resident.**

Without this core support, ACHS couldn't maintain the professional standards of research, preservation, and heritage we're known for. These funds help us create the outreach and educational opportunities found in this report, as well a multitude of daily tasks too large to list.

As a result of this funding, your story is safe with us.



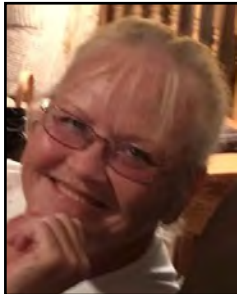
Senior Community Service Employment Program

is a federally funded, subsidized work program through the Anoka County Job Training Center. Senior (55+) workers are eligible to work up to 20 hours per week at a public or private non-profit agency and are paid directly by Anoka County.

The program matches organization needs with the skills and learning goals of the participants. As a result, ACHS gained two amazing people to help at our front desk.



Meet 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!

Meet Jan!



I've met so many amazing people who drop in to use the resources here in the building.

It was really exciting to find and work with old Property Assessment books as I worked as an assessor for 15 years. The things you can learn here!!

2018 PARTNERSHIPS



TPT PRODUCTION

ACHS recognizes the role we must play in documenting the present moment in order to create history for future generations. The most recent veteran families who have served since the first Gulf War have a unique experience in military history. The advent of immediate, electronic communication, the televised conflicts, and

the multiple deployments survived by citizen soldiers have set the stage for a story like no other America has in the books. This documentary gives Anoka County family members a chance to share their story on a national stage in a way that will connect us all.

Much of the filming has concluded and will culminate in the summer of 2019 as “We Too are at War” will premier on your local public television station. How did a fourth grader feel when Dad left yet again? How did a husband fare when traditional roles reversed and he stayed on the home front? What did a new couple with a baby do overseas when he left for harms way? How can we as a society support the ongoing commitment of our friends and neighbors who serve in America’s military? Watch for trailers and screening opportunities in 2019 to find these and other answers. PS...tissues are recommended, but not required.

Thank you

\$10,000 SPONSORS



\$2,000 SPONSORS:

Spring Lake Park Lions

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 470

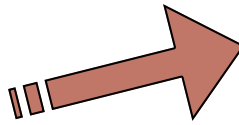
Dennis and Darlene Berg



Interviews with Dale and Joyce Melcher (above) and Scott Collier (below).



VOLUNTEERS GAVE:



EQUIVALENT OF
PAID STAFF TIME
\$121,680

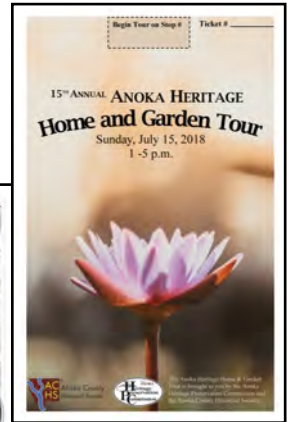
* Based on reported
volunteer hours.

HOME AND GARDEN TOURS

We had double the tour fun with two Home and Garden Tours in 2018.

ACHS partnered with the Anoka Heritage Preservation Committee in Anoka for the 15th year, while the Fridley Historical Society, city of Fridley, and County Library joined forces for the first-ever Fridley tour.

Each of these events showcased beautiful gardens, homes, and the unique history waiting in our back yards. A special thank you to the volunteers, committee members, and homeowners who made it all possible!



26 STOPS

427 VISITORS

\$6,491 RAISED
FOR THREE ORGANIZATIONS



History is dead!...or rather filled with dead people. The only way it lives and has a voice is through people who take the time to make it happen. Our volunteers create zombies every day and I couldn't be happier with the coming of the zombie apocalypse.

Sara Given, Volunteer Coordinator

SOCIAL MEDIA

Despite common traditions within cultural heritage organizations, social media, the internet, and word-of-mouth are the most prevalent means of reaching potential visitors and future members regardless of age. For this reason, effective use of social media will be one of the primary driving forces behind membership growth and retention in the coming years.



ACHS has a presence on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook that we continue to grow each day with hand-selected photos and carefully worded announcements. The digital era has allowed nonprofits to reduce printing costs, yet reach more individuals than ever before. Find us and follow us to know more!



Anoka County Historical Society

Published by Audra Hilse [9] - February 2, 2018

Does anyone remember the Video Update in Andover, Minnesota? This photo was taken 21 years ago in February 1997; this is the strip mall at the corner of Round Lake Boulevard and Bunker Lake Boulevard. There was also a Blockbuster Video in Coon Rapids, Minnesota farther south on Round Lake Boulevard. Today there aren't too many video rental stores left! What Anoka County businesses do you remember (or maybe even have pictures of) that aren't around anymore? Any favorites that have (sadly) vanished? (Object ID# P128.1.07) #business #localbusiness #videostore #videoupdate #andover #roundlakeboulevard #anokacountyhistory #1990s City of Andover, MN City of Coon Rapids, MN - Local Government



This post

29,300 PEOPLE REACHED

1,268 Reactions



309 Comments

Shared 89 times



██████████ - I have so many memories in this store! Haha mostly dad not understanding why we wanted to rent the same video over and over again, but then him relenting and letting is do it anyway 😄😄 ██████████

Like Reply Message · 50w



15TH ANNUAL GHOSTS OF ANOKA WALKING TOURS



TOURS



17,502
EARNED



TICKETS
SOLD

44%
INCREASE

The months of September and October translate into GHOST TOURS in our ACHS dictionary. The 15th year of tours broke all attendance records! Nearly 2,000 people attended the 83 tours we hosted over the course of these two months. Many came from Anoka County, but others traveled 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. **Only 19 tickets remained unsold online for the entire season.** This had a lot to do with using Eventbrite as a ticketing platform. Through this website our tour dates reached **184,300** people and a new market for this event. 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.



Anoka Women of Today Private Tour



Cool stuff with cool people:

- ◇ AARP– Tax Services
- ◇ Alexandra House
- ◇ Anoka American Legion Post 102
- ◇ Anoka Chamber of Commerce and Discover Anoka
- ◇ Anoka County Genealogical Society
- ◇ Anoka County Fair Board
- ◇ Anoka Historical Teen Council
- ◇ Anoka Lions Club
- ◇ Anoka *UnionHerald*
- ◇ Andover YMCA
- ◇ Arfstrom Foundation
- ◇ Blaine Festival
- ◇ Centerville Festival
- ◇ League of Women Voters-ABC
- ◇ MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce
- ◇ Minitex
- ◇ MN Digial Library
- ◇ Nowthen Threshing Show
- ◇ Nowthen Heritage Festival
- ◇ Opportunity Partners
- ◇ PEO Society
- ◇ Philolectian Society
- ◇ QCTV
- ◇ Quad-Cities Press
- ◇ RSVP
- ◇ Multiple Lions, Rotary, and Kiwanis
- ◇ TCART
- ◇ Vietnam Vets
- ◇ Wargo Nature Center

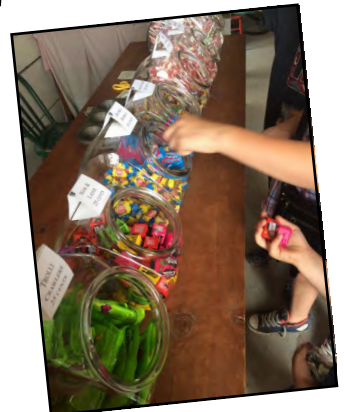
History is an action verb in our lexicon and ACHS works with groups across the county—sometimes at the history center and sometimes in the community. Here are some of our fun adventures this year...

*Book Talk
with MN
Book Award
finalist Susan
Bartlett
Foote*



As Ambassadors for the MetroNorth Chamber, we attended numerous ribbon cuttings, Expos, and events around the county.

*Many hands
made for empty
candy jars in our
General Store at
the Nowthen
Threshing Show.*





Ian served as our best volunteer during the Anoka County Fair at the Old Farmhouse.



Ever go to work in your (1860's) undies? Sara did! We presented at a Working With Women Chamber meeting as the featured nonprofit.



Rebecca presented with author Kim Heikkila on the emotional side of history and how we can harness that power for good storytelling.



A group of homeschool students joined Audra for a behind the scenes tour.



Family puzzle session during Anoka's Riverfest.

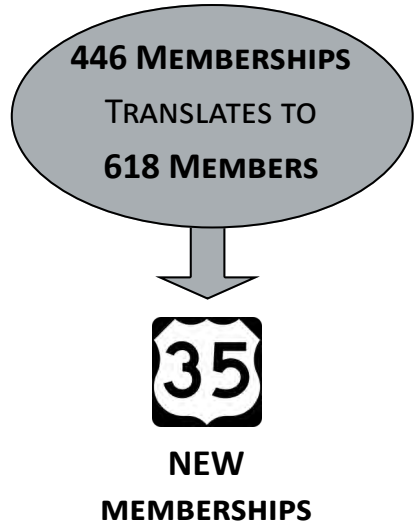
2018 FINANCIAL GROWTH

MEMBERSHIPS

Your membership is not just a financial donation, but a declaration that you believe local history plays a vital role in the community by preserving the story of the path we walk together. We thank our current members who continue their commitment to the operation of the History Center and look forward to welcoming new members. Help us double our numbers by inviting a friend to join today!



Members receive *History 21* six times per year. It contains articles on interesting collection items as well as information about upcoming and past programs.



SIGNIFICANT DONATIONS

ACHS treasures each and every donation that arrives in support of local history. Collectively, every dollar adds up and makes an enormous difference. Larger gifts, however, make a special impact for us. Thank you so very much to everyone who gives according to their ability.

Gifts of \$500 or more

Andover Lions Club
Coon Rapids Veterans
Gloria Given
Amanda Wendel
Orville Lindquist
Mary Dawson (In memory
of Helen Dawson)

Gifts of \$1,000 or more

Mary T. Home Health & Hospice
PSD, LLC (10,000+)
Anoka County (10,000+)

City of Anoka (In-Kind)
Paul III & Mary Pierce
Johannes Allert
Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 470
Ramsey Lions Club (10,000+)
Dennis & Darlene Berg
AAA Auction & Realty LLC (In-Kind)
Rita Warpeha
Tim & Rose Talbot (In memory
of Sheriff Buster Talbot)
Plants & Things



Contributions to ACHS don't always come in the way of cash to defray operating costs. The City of Anoka continues to support local history efforts by providing our building as an in-kind donation. As a result of this sizeable gift, ACHS can maintain the public computers and library space, preserve the story of the County, and recount the fascinating tales in our collection. We extend sincere thanks to the City of Anoka for their continued support!

UPDATED TECHNOLOGY

In 2016 LeOrá Kroeger donated \$50,000 to ACHS. The board directed a portion of this to updating technology. We used these funds to purchase new computers, monitors, and a new server to house our digital collection and day-to-day work. Along with these physical changes, we updated our internet connection. All of these changes have made the digital workings of the historical society stable and more accessible.

Before



After



STRATEGIC PLAN

Everyone needs to pause and rethink and regroup every so often. For the ACHS board, this happened last spring during a work session at the Blaine City Hall. After several hours of brainstorming and arranging sticky notes on walls (thank you to our library friends who facilitated!) we came away with the need to make

technology the hub of everything we do. Built from that, we extended spokes named “Gather”, “Define Identity”, “Engage”, and “Management” to correlate to newly consolidated committees. Staff can use the action points of these groups to guide their daily work and board members can now see a bigger picture more in focus than before. Interested? We would love to have you serve! Let us know by sending a note.

2018 FINANCIAL GROWTH

Anoka County Historical Society

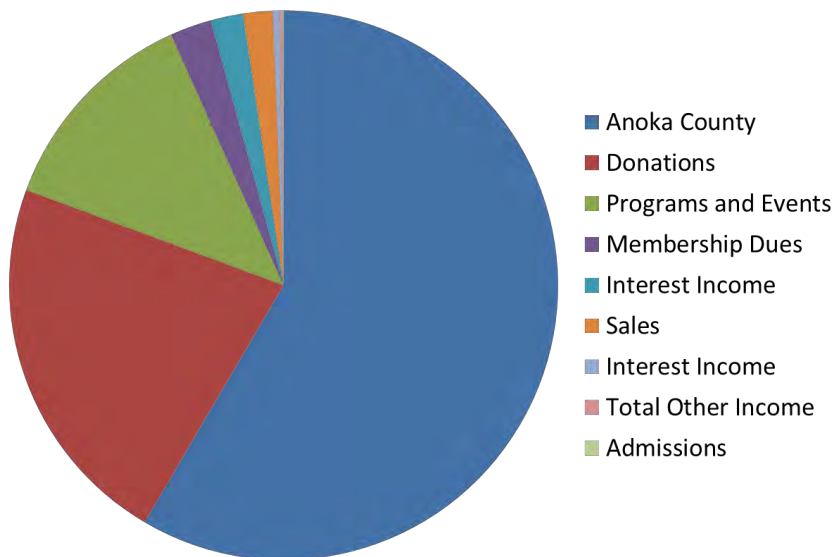
BUDGET VS. ACTUALS: FY 2018

January - December 2018

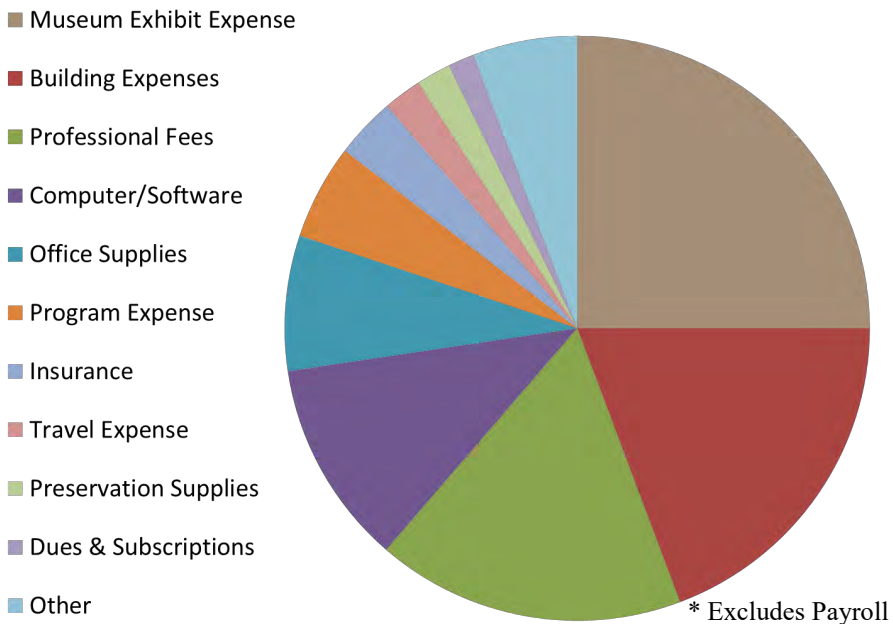
	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Revenue				
Inkind Revenue		0.00	0.00	
Net Asset Restrictions Released		0.00	0.00	
Sales	11.70		11.70	
TOTAL SUPPORT				
Admissions	155.00	906.00	-751.00	17.11 %
Anoka County	152,623.00	152,623.00	0.00	100.00 %
Donations	57,947.70	44,600.00	13,347.70	129.93 %
Grants		3,000.00	-3,000.00	
Interest Income	4,975.25	1,246.00	3,729.25	399.30 %
Membership Dues	6,411.00	7,200.00	-789.00	89.04 %
Other Income	1,476.46	0.00	1,476.46	
Programs and Events	32,987.30	32,777.00	210.30	100.64 %
Sales	4,547.24	4,664.00	-116.76	97.50 %
Total TOTAL SUPPORT	261,122.95	247,016.00	14,106.95	105.71 %
Total Revenue	\$261,134.65	\$247,016.00	\$14,118.65	105.72 %
GROSS PROFIT	\$261,134.65	\$247,016.00	\$14,118.65	105.72 %
Expenditures				
Advertising	287.93	990.00	-702.07	29.08 %
Auto Expense	34.00		34.00	
Bank Service Charges	530.39	942.00	-411.61	56.30 %
Building Expenses	27,690.08	34,139.00	-6,448.92	81.11 %
Computer/Software Expense	16,271.58	4,800.00	11,471.58	338.99 %
Depreciation Expense		0.00	0.00	
Donor Recognition		360.00	-360.00	
Dues and Subscriptions	2,080.69	1,740.00	340.69	119.58 %
Food	953.89	1,080.00	-126.11	88.32 %
Furniture & Other Equipment	454.55	960.00	-505.45	47.35 %
Gifts	291.07	150.00	141.07	194.05 %
Human Resources Expense	762.80	1,440.00	-677.20	52.97 %
Inkind Rent		0.00	0.00	
Inkind Services		0.00	0.00	
Insurance	4,809.85	4,688.00	140.85	103.02 %
Museum Exhibit Expense	35,909.89	3,600.00	32,309.89	997.50 %
Networking	289.09	360.00	-70.91	80.30 %
Office Supplies	10,738.01	9,000.00	1,738.01	119.31 %
PAYROLL	145,040.96	164,800.00	-19,759.04	88.01 %
Postage and Delivery	1,653.83	2,705.00	-1,051.17	61.14 %
Preservation Supplies	2,743.47	1,800.00	943.47	152.42 %
Printing and Reproduction	1,773.20	2,040.00	-266.80	86.92 %
Professional Fees	24,475.00	6,106.00	18,369.00	400.84 %
Program Expense	7,553.51	6,140.00	1,413.51	123.02 %
Purchases	758.07	900.00	-141.93	84.23 %
QuickBooks Payments Fees	8.37		8.37	
refund	155.11		155.11	
Repair/Maintenance-Non-Building	350.19	600.00	-249.81	58.37 %
Research Expense		300.00	-300.00	
TR NA Restrictions Released		0.00	0.00	
Travel Expense	3,049.31	2,940.00	109.31	103.72 %
Total Expenditures	\$288,664.94	\$252,561.00	\$36,103.94	114.30 %
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$ -27,530.29	\$ -5,545.00	\$ -21,985.29	496.49 %
Other Expenditures	\$1,184.85	\$524.00	\$660.85	226.12 %
NET OTHER REVENUE	\$ -1,184.85	\$ -524.00	\$ -660.85	226.12 %
NET REVENUE	\$ -28,715.14	\$ -6,069.00	\$ -22,646.14	473.14 %

Unaudited 2018 expenditures exceeded revenues by \$27,530. This is the result of one-time expenditures for projects carried forward from the prior year of \$29,794. If you exclude those project expenditures, the operational revenues exceeded operational expenditures by \$2,263.

REVENUE



EXPENDITURES



General Donations

Anoka County
Janice Bergstrom
Mike & Mary Clark
Betty Erickson
League of Women
Voters—ABC
Jerome & Marilyn
Manley
Jeri O'Brien
Jim Plowman &
Lynda Long
Al & Dawn Springer

**Veterans Voice
Donations**

Connexus Energy
Signature Wealth
Management
Spring Lake Park
Lions

Artifact Donors

Dennis Berg
Ramona Carlson

Pauline James
Debra Lambert
Beverly Medvecky
Catherine Vesley

**ACHS New
Members**

Marvin Christenson
Mike Dunlap
Julie Engen
Kim Hogdal

**ACHS Sustaining
Members**

Northeast Bank
Rita Warpeha

**ACHS Business
Members**

Anoka Dental
Anoka Knights of
Columbus
Council 2018
Bachman's Floral
Home and

Garden
The BIG White
House
City of Columbia
Heights
Coon Rapids
Historical
Commission
Fifth Avenue Dental
Hawaii Nail Spa
Nowthen Historical
Power
Association
Pierce Motel
Pierce Refrigeration
Peterson Shoes
Plants & Things
Roof Medics, LLC
Terry Overacker
Plumbing
Ticknor Hill Bed &
Breakfast
Tomco Company
Twin City Staffing



ACHS Remembers



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

Rita Ward
1928-2019

Front Cover: St. Francis wrestling coach Gene Yanke with St. Francis wrestler Wayne
Tennison, class of 72.
Object ID#: 449.1.02

**M
O
N
T
H
L
Y**

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

Philolectian Room Rededication

March 13, 1-3 p.m. *program at 1:30 p.m.*
 Anoka County History Center

Grandma’s Cookie Jar

March 22, 10 a.m.
 Andover YMCA Community Room A
 Take some time to talk about family cookie recipes, traditions, and memories of the family bakers in this class. Please bring along a favorite cookie jar and a good story to share (we’ll provide the treats!)

Live! A Year in Review: The ACHS Annual Meeting

March 24, 2-4 p.m.
 Anoka County History Center

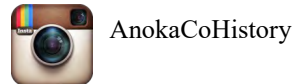
UPDATED: Jell-O Cook-off: Show Us Your Best Jiggle

May 11, 1-4 p.m.
 SBM Fire Station #3, 11920 Ulysses St NE, Blaine
 You’ve done it with chili, now do it with Jello-O! No family gathering in the Midwest is complete without fruit, fluff, and that magical jiggle. Enter your best Jell-O salad, dessert, or dish for a chance to win prizes. We’ll have games like Jiggler toss and Naked Jell-O (Thumb) Wrestling as well the tastings, of course! Mark your calendars for this fundraiser.

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.

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





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

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**ANOKA, MINN.
PERMIT No. 198**





HISTORY 21

Volume 49 No.3 May-June 2019

Ring around the TUNA? A Jell-O Masterpiece. Recipe inside!

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.

Board of Directors

District 1: Al Pearson
District 2: Kim Hogdahl
District 3: Orville Lindquist
District 4: Lotus Hubbard (Vice-Pres.)
District 5: Richard Oxley
District 6: Open
District 7: Bart Ward
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At-Large B: Dennis Berg (President)
At-Large C: Mike Scott
At-Large D: Johannes Allert
At-Large E: Jim Rootes
At-Large F: Paul Pierce
At-Large G: Allison Schmitt
At-Large H: Mary Nolan
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Mandy Meisner

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(Executive Director)
Sara Given (Volunteer Coordinator)
Audra Hilse (Archivist & Administrator)
Carol Dordan (Office Staff)
Don Johnson (Office Staff)
Karen Rieks (Office Staff)

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- 13 - Volunteer World: Technology is our friend
- 14 - Thank You to Our Supporters
- 15 - Upcoming Events

*Front Cover: Joys of Jell-O Cookbook:
Ring Around the Tuna:*

1 package (3oz.) Jell-O Lime or Lemon Gelatin
1/4 tsp salt
1 c. boiling water
3/4 c. cold water
2 T vinegar
2 tsp grated onion
1/2 c. diced cucumber
1/2 c. diced celery

2 T chopped pimento
2 T sliced stuffed olives
1 can (7 oz.) tuna, drained and flaked
Dissolve Jell-O Gelatin and salt in boiling water. Add cold water, vinegar and onion. Chill until very thick. Stir in remaining ingredients (yes this includes the TUNA!!!) Pour into mold. Chill until firm. Unmold on crisp salad greens. If desired serve with additional tuna and top salads with mayonnaise. Makes about 4 entrée servings.

From the President

I want to thank the staff for showcasing the excellent projects we've been working on over the past year at the annual meeting in March. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newly elected board members to their role in governance at ACHS. Kim Hogdahl and Allison Schmitt take their seat for the first time at the table, representing their communities of Ham Lake and Ramsey. Incumbents Al Pearson, Steve Florman, and Mary Nolan will continue to serve the membership for another term of three years. The time after an annual meeting is exciting, as new ideas and skills enter the board of directors and we reevaluate our direction for the future. If this is a place you'd like to give of your time, please consider serving on one of our committees or task forces—these are the places where crucial decisions are made.



A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Dennis R. Berg".

Dennis Berg, ACHS President



From the Director

I had the pleasure of joining well over 200 of my closest history friends recently at a conference in Red Wing. Hosted by the Minnesota Alliance of History Museums (MALHM), this grassroots gathering allows for organizations of every size, paid and unpaid, to share ideas. I enjoyed seeing the seasoned veterans speaking with newly graduated students, the larger organizations listening to the smaller ones, the comradery of a budget always too small for our dreams. The words of keynote speaker Kent Whitworth, Director & CEO of the Minnesota Historical Society, addressed the relevance of history—something we all struggle to define daily. Instead of perching on the stage in front of a podium, Whitworth mingled among the tables, sharing the microphone in a guided conversation that involved us. In short, he made his speech relevant. He chose to abandon the top-down authoritarian view of the historical society in favor of letting us feel we had some ownership. There is space for us all, for all of our stories to live side-by-side. We just need to share the microphone and see what happens.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Rebecca Ebnet-Desens".

Rebecca Ebnet-Desens, Executive Director



A Photograph's Story

By Jim Rootes,
ACHS Board Member

What is the story behind this photograph? It is obvious that it is a young woman holding a baby. But what is the story behind the photograph—especially of the two people in it? Can just looking at it reveal the story?

The background indicates they are sitting at a piano either early in the morning or before bed time by the looks of the young woman's attire. The baby has just been fed as indicated by the partially consumed baby bottle. The paper on the piano has bells on it that would indicate it is about Christmas. Looking at the back of the photo the date has been written in pencil—December 24, 1944.

Without any more information that may be all we could know, but this photograph tells a story far beyond what can be seen.

INVESTIGATING THE STORY

The young woman is 22 years old and her name is Nora Geneva [Ellison] Rootes, but she preferred her middle name, Geneva. She graduated in 1940 from Isle (Minnesota) High School. Sometime after graduation her family moved to Anoka where her maternal grandparents lived. During that period, and as a result of World War II, she enlisted in the US Navy as a WAVE (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service). Geneva's two brothers had already enlisted—one in the Army, one in the Navy. She served as a third

class petty officer (Storekeeper) in the Navy until September 1944 when she married. Since married woman did not serve in the Navy, she was discharged.

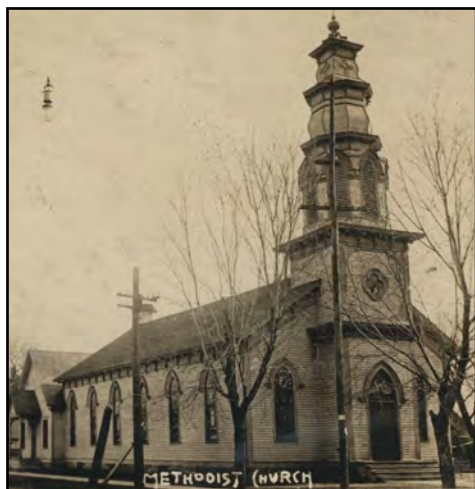
The young man that became her husband studied at the University of Minnesota, majoring in agribusiness. He was a young farm boy named Eldon Rootes from Nowthen (Burns Township). He was also in the ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corp). But by September 1944 he anticipated his call to active duty so his sweetheart took advantage of their time together and they married at the Methodist Church in Anoka.

When the photograph was taken in December, Geneva and Eldon had been married less than three months. The baby is not hers; it is her niece, Linda. (Linda's father, from Nowthen, was serving in the US Navy in the Pacific.) They are celebrating Christmas Eve at her in-laws' farm in Nowthen. What is missing in the photograph? Where is her husband?

At the end of September 1944, mere weeks after getting married, Eldon was on his way to prepare for military activation and traveled across the Atlantic to Europe. Previously, the Atlantic had been the hunting ground for German U-boats, but by 1944 they were essentially neutralized so the crossing posed little risk. He arrived in England on December 16, 1944. Did the young bride know where her husband was? Did she know if he had arrived in Europe safely? Communication was by mail; there were no telephone, cell phone, or other modern communication methods we have today. A message could take weeks.

Upon his arrival in Europe, Eldon was assigned to the US Third Army commanded by General George Patton, who was leading his troops through southern France toward Germany. But Patton's intelligence people became aware of information that indicated a massive German build-up near Belgium. Even though the information was known to other Army units, only Patton took it seriously. Based on this intelligence, Patton developed a contingency plan in the event the Germans made an offensive move.

December 16, 1944 (the day the young husband arrived in England) at 5:30 a.m., Hitler initiated the Ardennes Offensive (also known as the Battle of the Bulge) and moved across the German border into Belgium. The objective was to divide the allied forces and reach Antwerp, a Belgium seaport still under German control. The day marked the worst weather conditions (abnormal snow fall and low temperatures) ever recorded in Belgium. The Ardennes was the weakest point in the Allies front line. The failure of the Allies to recognize Germany's build up would be the greatest failure of American Army intelligence and would eventually end in the Army's greatest victory. It would be the largest land



Methodist Church Anoka



battle fought by the Army. The Germans advanced so rapidly that it took the allies by surprise. One German objective was to capture the Belgium city, Bastogne, because it was a major transportation center. Bastogne received earlier reinforcement from the US Army 101 Airborne. But the American defenders of Bastogne were running out of ammunition and major supplies. The Germans eventually surrounded the town and demanded the Americans surrender or be destroyed. The American commanding general responded with “NUTS.”

Eisenhower assembled his generals to determine the response to the German offensive. Of particular concern was what to do about Bastogne—all military units were not in a position to respond expeditiously,

except Patton because of his contingency plan. He could turn his troops and relieve Bastogne by Christmas. Many considered it virtually impossible to turn an army and move the distance needed on short notice to arrive in Bastogne before it was captured or destroyed—but believed Patton could do it with the Fourth Armored Division. They gave him the go ahead and the troops began moving from southern France toward Belgium and Bastogne.

Where was the young bride’s husband? Two days before the Christmas photograph was taken, Eldon celebrated his 22nd birthday moving towards Bastogne as part of the US Third Army, Fourth Armored Division.

An armored division primarily consists of tanks, half-tracks, and other highly mobile equipment to provide a fast moving unit with intimidating fire power. Battalions of this equipment made up the division. Examples were the 37th Tank Battalion consisting of Sherman tanks and the 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion consisting of M3 half-tracks that transported infantry in support of the tanks. Eldon was assigned to the US Third Army, Fourth Armored Division, 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion.

The 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion, along with the 37th Tank Battalion, led the way to Bastogne. It was not easy. The Germans with similar equipment and infantry could operate either offensively or defensively as necessary to challenge the Americans.

A battalion is broken down in companies and Combat Commands (Alpha, Bravo, and Reserve) (CCA, CCB, CCR). Each 37th Tank Battalion and 53rd Armored Infantry CC received objectives to reach Bastogne. However, CCA and CCB became bogged down and did not advance as expected. Only CCR

was able to break out and move more aggressively toward Bastogne.

Where was the young bride's husband that Christmas Eve, December 24, 1944 on the very day that the photograph was being taken? He was assigned to the US Third Army, 4th Armor Division, 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion, Combat Command Reserve (CCR).

CCR (consisting of the 37th Tank Battalion, Company C and the 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion, Company C) made significant progress toward Bastogne; so much so they requested to bypass German held villages to reach Bastogne on December 26. The request sidestepped normal military channels and went straight to General Patton. Patton approved the decision and CCR moved forward. CCR received support by artillery fire, which became so intense on one village, the German soldiers left the safety of the buildings at the same time the 53rd's half-tracks were going through. The intensity of the barrage forced the American infantry from their vehicles and into hand to hand combat with the German enemy.

Bastogne was relieved by elements of the 37th Tank Battalion and 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion on December 26, 1944. These units went on to remove elements of enemy forces around Bastogne and started pushing the enemy back into Germany. Where was the young bride's husband on January 11, 1945? He was assigned to the US Third Army, 4th Armor Division, 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion, Company C under hostile fire when, while exiting his M3 half-track, a mortar round hit the M3 and sent metal fragments in all directions. One fragment sliced through Eldon's neck severely injuring him. He received timely attention and was evacuated to England for hospitalization before continuing on to Colorado for therapy and recovery. Geneva finally knew the location of her husband and they were not parted again.

Eldon and Geneva returned to a little 40 acre farm in Nowthen and welcomed two sons there before moving to Coon Rapids, where two more sons joined the family.

The couple's marriage survived 26 years, halted when Geneva succumbed to cancer. Two of the sons followed their parents' example to serve their country, this time in Viet Nam—one in the Army and one in the Navy.

The young husband never shared his experience with his sons and it is not known how much he shared with his young bride.



Do you have a story—your own, a relative, or friend that should be told? TELL US!

If you need help getting started, the Anoka County History Center has forms available to assist you in recording yours or another's story.

What do an 1880's hotel, a 1930's football jersey, and a 1960's coin laundry have in common? While this might sound like the beginning of a strange joke, it is instead the kind of question we must regularly ask at the History Center... and are grateful for the times when we can find the answer.

It turns out that the 1880's hotel, the 1930's football jersey, and the 1960's coin laundry have two things in common: they are all in the city of Anoka and they are all connected to the life of Lawrence William Butler.

This story begins with Lawrence's great-uncles, Edward and Hugh Butler. Edward and Hugh's parents had immigrated to Canada from Ireland sometime before 1850, and their seven children, including Edward and Hugh, were born in Nova Scotia. In 1880, Hugh and his family (wife and daughter) and his brother Edward arrived in the United States, where the two men were eventually naturalized as U.S. citizens.

"The Farmer's hotel, located within a block of the business portion, was recently purchased by Ed Butler of Minneapolis, a genial and experienced gentleman in this line, and has been fitted up in a modern and comfortable style," reported the *Anoka Herald* on January 1, 1897.

The 1900 Census lists Edward as "hotel keeper" and his brother Hugh as "bar keeper". There was a saloon on the ground floor of the hotel, and it seems that Hugh was in charge of that section. The Census lists Hugh's wife, Mary, as the housekeeper. The family were joined in 1902 by their nephew, Edward Hugh Butler, who came down from Canada and worked in the logging camps, at Pillsbury Mill, and later Federal Cartridge while living at his uncles' hotel. It was there that he met Margaret Miller, whom he married in 1906.

One of their children was Lawrence William Butler, born in 1917. He grew up in Anoka and attended Anoka High School, where he lettered in basketball and also played on the football team. The 1937 Anoka High School yearbook photo of the team shows Lawrence in his number 43 jersey, though that black and white image does not capture the bright red and yellow colors of the uniform. During high school, Lawrence met fellow Anokan Erma Baldwin, and they started dating. In 1941, they married and settled in Anoka.



By the early 1950s, Lawrence and Erma had opened two businesses: Butler's Grocery & Meats, and Butler's Drive-In. Both were located on 5th Avenue, in the triangle of land formed by 5th Avenue, Military Road, and Washington Street. This is just south of what served as Anoka High School in the 1950s and Fred Moore Middle School today. Hans' Bakery stands just north of where Butler's grocery was located. They ran the business successfully for about 10 years, until a National Food grocery store moved in nearby. Rather than compete unsuccessfully, Lawrence and Erma decided to use their building for something else. In about 1958, what had been the grocery store became Larry's Launderette, a self-service coin laundry. Erma recalled having to go every morning to make sure that none of the students from Anoka High School up the street were hanging out in the laundry, and regularly had to kick them out. She also once found a drunk person sleeping in one of the dryers.

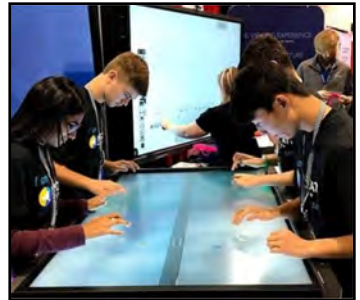


Lawrence and Erma stayed together and in Anoka for the rest of their lives, attending annual reunions with fellow 1937 Anoka High School graduates who had also remained in the area. Lawrence passed away in 2010, Erma in 2016.

Thanks to Lawrence's forethought, we have images of the Farmer's hotel here at the History Center. Thanks to his daughter Linda, we now have Lawrence's football jersey, as well as photographs of the businesses that her parents ran together.



COMING
SOON!



ACHS is proud to announce we received a \$10,000 grant from the Shavlik Family Foundation! This grant will purchase two Cleartouch tables for the history center. These multi-touch, interactive tables will change the way people explore our collections, exhibits, and experience our programs. Our partnership with Hennepin Technical College continues, as students from the school help create games and interactive material for visitors to play with. History will literally be at our digital fingertips!

Stay tuned for a grand unveiling this summer!



We're In This Together

The filming has concluded and final revisions have occurred! We're excited to announce the (tentative) premier date for our Twin Cities Public Television (TPT) documentary, "We Too are at War" on August 11, 2019.

In this half-hour program, which you will find on your television sets as well as your computers, we explore the experiences of Anoka County residents as family members serve on long-term deployments. How did a fourth grader feel when Dad left yet again? How did a husband fare when traditional roles reversed and he stayed on the home front? What did a new couple with a baby do overseas when he left for harms way? How can we as a society support the ongoing commitment of our friends and neighbors who serve in America's military?

Watch for trailers and screening opportunities this summer to find these and other answers. PS...tissues are recommended, but not required.

But wait! That's not all...

We couldn't let the project end there—a half hour simply can't contain all the inspiring stories in Anoka County! As we move through the next few years, ACHS intends to collect oral histories from other military families and translate those into exhibits for our gallery, website, and off-site locations. Please consider contributing to the remainder of this project by making a donation of time, talent or treasure.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS FOR MAKING THIS TPT DOCUMENTARY POSSIBLE!

\$10,000 SPONSORS



\$2,000 SPONSORS:

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Dennis and Darlene Berg
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Show us your best jiggle!

May 11, 2019

1-4 p.m.

SBM Fire - Station 3
11920 Ulysses Street Northeast
Blaine, MN 55434

You've done it with chili, now do it with Jello-O! No family gathering in the Midwest is complete without fruit, fluff, and that magical jiggle.

Enter your best Jell-O salad, dessert, or dish for a chance to win prizes(\$25 per entry):

- ◇ **Best in Fluff**
- ◇ **Best Fruit Suspension**
- ◇ **Best Family Story**
- ◇ **Best Photo Entry (the older the better)**

Or just come for the fun (\$15 ticket) and play games like Jiggler toss and Jell-O Jeopardy, taste the salads and vote for your favorite, or challenge your friends to a round of naked Jell-O (**thumb**) wrestling!

Tickets available by phone 763-421-0600 or through Eventbrite (search for ACHS and you'll find it!)



Added Bonus: Mural Painting

Jell-O Mural?! Jell-O as an art medium? YES! Come and participate in making a community art mural where we all work together to make one terrific piece of art. Watch dry powder transform into a glowing colorful Jell-O mural. MAKE history for this never-done-before Jell-O Mural! There's ALWAYS room for Jell-O! 1-3 p.m. during the event on May 11. Guided by Jell-O artist and always-an-Anokan-in-her-heart, Jill M. Johnson.



ACHS AROUND TOWN

The history field in Minnesota remains one of the largest and most comprehensive in the nation. We're spoiled to have the resources we do and the skilled people to preserve the stories we can. We're also spoiled that we can say (quite honestly!) our colleagues become friends. One of the best parts of attending the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museum (MALHM) conference is cheering on those friends receiving awards like Kathy Klehr (Scott County, Lifetime Achievement Award) and Chris Schulte (Otter Tail County, 150th Anniversary Celebration). Sessions dealing with Historic Preservation, Main Street renewal, succession planning, developing relationships with diverse communities, and managing intellectual property proved particularly insightful and useful as ACHS works forward.



ACHS Anoka County Historical Society

City of Fridley

ANOKA COUNTY LIBRARY

Roots & Ripples

Fridley Home & Garden Tour

July 21
1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Tickets: \$12 Early Bird
AnokaCountyHistory.org

FRIDLEY HOME & GARDEN TOUR

Tickets are on sale now (via phone or ACHS website) for the second annual tour around homes and gardens in the suburban neighborhoods of Fridley.

July 21
1 p.m.—5 p.m.

How far do your roots go down and how many ripples do you make in the community? What natural forces work on our spaces to bring change through time? Come explore these ideas with us as we enjoy the beauty of properties in Fridley.



Dust off those winter blues and shine up your volunteer cape! With the weather warmer, ACHS is headed out and about to various events, festivals and quiriness and we need your help! Even Wonder Woman can't be in two places at once. I'm sending out the Bat Signal now – so check your calendars and see if you can be my superhero and help bring ACHS out into the world. Each event has its own volunteer packet, so no worries about creating the details from scratch.

- July 21: Fridley Home & Garden Tour
- July 23—28: Anoka County Fair (Many shifts. This is a hefty week)
- August 16-18: Nowthen Threshing Show (Multiple shifts)
- September 14: ACHS History Beer Festival with Hammerheart Brewing (in the preliminary stages... updates to come!)

Sara Given

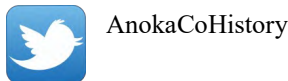
Volunteer Coordinator

Sara@AnokaCountyHistory.org

Who can be my hero? Sign up today!

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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Peterson Shoes
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ACHS Remembers



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

Margaret Langfeld
1942-2019

Ronald Nordin
1950-2019

**M
O
N
T
H
L
Y**

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

Jell-O Cookoff: Show Us Your Best Jiggle

May 11, 1-4 p.m.
 General admission tickets, \$15
 Salad entry tickets, \$25
 SBM Fire - Station 3
 11920 Ulysses Street NE, Blaine, MN 55434

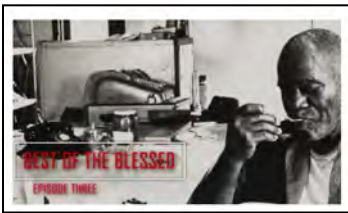
Time Marches On

May 16, 6 p.m.
 Location: Ramsey City Hall

Mary Pickford: The World’s First Movie Star

May 28, 6:30 p.m.
 Location: Anoka History Center

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



Look for our cooking series *Best of the Blessed*, now live on Vimeo (<https://vimeo.com/user97052329>)! We’re taking fabulous recipes from our church cookbook collection and whipping them up for you to enjoy (on screen, at least).

Don’t forget to drop by QCTV online (<http://qctv.org/itsyourhistory/>) to find the latest episode of *It’s Your History*. In this episode, called “The Sweetest Recipes in Anoka”, we explore Swedetown, sweet rolls, and the recipes that shape our palates.





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Anoka County
Historical Society



HISTORY 21

Volume 49 No.4 July-August 2019

“Weather forecast for tonight: dark.” George Carlin

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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*Front Cover: Flowers in vase. Roy & Lois Downs glass plate negative collection.
Object ID: 2005.1361.203*

From the President

As I sat surrounded by the people who brought our TPT documentary “We’re In This Together” to life, I felt grateful. When the show ended—the first time it had played for an audience—the stillness of the room indicated it had an impact. A Q&A session followed the screening and the first question asked by those in attendance humbled me—how can we help? What can we do? This project had always been about the military family experience rather than the service member and tactile maneuvers overseas, but to see it happen was really something. We all want to be heard and understood. This production gave families a chance to tell their story and be part of a larger discussion.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis R. Berg".

Dennis Berg, ACHS President



From the Director

Finding the much-talked about “work-life balance” presents a challenge for us all in this modern world. Every time I promise myself to stop the bleed between the two, my cell phone dings with a volunteer who is taking the time out of THEIR day to help. Then I consider our ancestors who just LIVED. Every piece of work helped the family collective move forward, often incorporating a social component to the work. They just did the things that sustained life and didn’t consider erecting a block between their activities. I wonder if the quest for a work-life balance actually means work-play balance. I say this because when I’m at home I still work—I do the dishes, I feed the critters, I run the vacuum around, I solve kiddo problems. What I really lack is time to pretend my cares don’t exist and escape. Now THAT is a modern concept. So as summer rolls on, I wonder what you do for fun? What is the play in your life? What hobbies make you laugh? Have they changed from your parents and grandparents? Drop us a line and we’ll make a note for the files. After all, if we don’t document it, who will?

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Ebnet-Desens".

Rebecca Ebnet-Desens, Executive Director



Finding the Lee's of Cedar

By Linda Rodgers
ACHS Volunteer

My immediate family—my cousins, aunts, uncles, and grandpa—all called Cedar our hometown through the 1950s-1960s. Our total of 15 Lees (the Weston Lee clan, that is, since the Tom Lee clan lived outside of town) comprised a pretty big share of the total Cedar population of 80. Entertainment in our tiny town during that era centered on family get-togethers. Lee get-togethers meant sharing a meal, playing pinochle or cribbage, and telling family stories. We held on to heirlooms representing those stories...photos and letters in a cedar box...a mustache cup...an old wooden box for a knitting machine. And a prize possession, my great-grandpa's sword from the Civil War.

I had some notion of the kind of man my great-grandpa was. Adrial Lee fought for the Yankees in the regiment from Bradford County, Pennsylvania, to secure liberty for slaves and to preserve the Union. He sustained wounds that had a lasting effect and made it hard for him and his wife, Maria, to eke out a living. We had papers from the military that documented his service. Still dirt poor in their later years, he and Maria followed their four sons to Anoka County to live out the rest of their lives. A few letters from Adrial to his sons had survived, so I read his fatherly advice and felt the rhythm of his writing. I knew little of Maria, and we had no heirlooms representing her life.

Fast-forward to 2019. The little girl who grew up in Cedar is 67, retired and restless, looking for a rewarding volunteer commitment of value to others. I made a list of three organizations that hosted programs placing volunteers in jobs that seemed to fit those goals. I planned to interview people from each of the three programs, thoughtfully consider which would be the best, and go ahead with that assignment.

The first organization was the Anoka County Historical Society. I visited one Saturday and felt caught up immediately by the entrance display that focused on Army Medic Leslie Cowden. I caught my breath and my eyes misted over. Leslie Cowden had grown up in the Cedar area. He was killed in Viet Nam, within days of his neighbor, Marine Sargent

*Above: Linda [Lee] Rodgers as a
baby with her family in Cedar*

Peter Hedlund. Their deaths had brought home the grim reality of that war and had shaken my comfortable teenage roots. The display drew me in, transporting me back decades to that tumultuous time.

Regaining my composure, I finally pushed through the entrance area to the reception desk. Don introduced himself, gave me some basic information about volunteer tasks, and advised me to contact Sara, the volunteer coordinator, who would be in on Monday. I spent the next two hours wandering through the museum's exhibits and resources. I spied my high school buddy's dad's photo from WWII, snapped a photo and texted it to her in Seattle. "Wasn't he handsome?" she wrote back immediately. Fun! I hadn't expected all the personal connections in this place.

Next, Zilla Way walked in with her daughter, Kathy. Zilla is a hero of mine because of her pioneering leadership role as the first woman to serve as an Anoka "councilman" in the 1970s. She was visiting the League of Women Voters' display and, ever modest, seemed surprised to see her own photo. I felt privileged to share the poignant moment of mother and daughter viewing Zilla's featured history, side by side.

I stayed until closing that Saturday, feeling a little buzz from the time travel and the personal connections.

The following Friday, Sara gave me an overview of the history, influence, and resources of ACHS, and explained the breadth of volunteer assignments. When she asked what I might like to do as a volunteer, I started to stammer that I wasn't sure yet.

Suddenly, something fired in my brain and on impulse, I asked, could my familiarity with Cedar be useful in any way? By the end of that conversation I had been given my dream assignment— to research and write a booklet about Cedar's history.

Sara pointed out the display of booklets that ACHS has already published, to give me an idea of what I could aim for in a history of Cedar. Each booklet is a magnifying glass on a specific person or place including Colonial Hall, Mary Woodbury, and the old Anoka Post Office. She shared the vision of producing booklets about other small towns, such as Bethel and Constance. Bigger towns often have infrastructure that preserves their history, but small towns' histories can be lost unless someone collects and organizes information from scattered places.

I have spent time thinking about how I grew up in tiny Cedar, how idyllic it felt, how my childhood remained full of freedom and security there. I also think about how



A collection of family artifacts from the Lee family

different that place and time are from the world in which my granddaughters now have to grow up in. I want to help them imagine Cedar, just as my mom helped me imagine growing up in her hometown. She gave me a grand story of Fromberg, Montana in the early 20th century. Knowing that place and time helped me understand her values, her skills, and how she approached life. I would like that for Grace, Sabrina and Ella— a grand story of Cedar, Minnesota in the mid-century.

I never contacted the other organizations. I had work to do. But I wasn't exactly sure what the work would entail. Rebecca, the director, joined us and explained how I could review the museum's Cedar-related materials, collect stories and facts from knowledgeable Cedar-connected people, and preserve them on video and audio recordings. As I imagined the work unfolding, it seemed as though the major challenge might not be finding information, but selecting *which* information will best create a compelling portrayal of life in bygone Cedar.

Also, how would I divvy up everything I learned? By chronology? By families? By themes such as business, health, and social roles? What gets included? What's out? As an adult I understand Cedar was **not** really idyllic in every way. Should I include the not-so-nice parts of the story in the booklet or do they remain unsaid? I decided the answers to those questions will emerge through diving deep into the information I collect.

The next week I explored Cedar-related items in the museum's collection, read through old articles, and pored over maps. Sara trained me to use "Collective Access", an online catalog of museum artifacts that is under development. Now available to researchers, a portion is available on the internet via the ACHS website. One night, bug-eyed, I reviewed the hundred-some items about Cedar, noting those that were relevant. Feeling high on discovery, I wondered if there were any items specific to my family, and typed in "Adrial Lee".

I was astonished. A photo of a wooden bowl popped up with this description:



Linda [Lee] Rodgers meeting her family bowl for the first time.

Wooden bread bowl. 18x10". Note name and date on bottom of bowl. Archeological. A patron, Cary Teale, brought in a wooden bread bowl and wanted help trying to piece together its history. He found it in Coon Creek during a cleanup project he was supervising with a group of kids in the Coon Rapids Park Department's Trailblazer program in 1976. The bowl was found in the mud just south of where Coon Creek crosses under Main Street (county Road 14). The bottom of the bowl has the name "Maria T.L." and the year "1882" carved into the bottom. Volunteers Linda and Darlene began working to find information. They only found one person in Anoka County with the name Maria and initials that matched in the 1885 Anoka County census. When Cary came back a few days later, I helped him find the obits for both Maria and her husband, Adrial Lee.

They lived in Bethel. Coon Creek does run a long way through Anoka County and it would be possible for this to be the right person, but there is no way to ever know. Cary said he felt that the bowl was only meant to be his for a little while and he wanted to donate it to ACHS. It is in good condition and certainly does have a county history, even if we can only be certain of it from 1976 to now, so I did accept the bowl for the permanent collection. —Vickie Wendel

I stared at the screen, reading again and again, thinking, “*How is this even possible— that I would noodle around online and find my great-grandma’s bread bowl!?*” The theme from the Twilight Zone ran through my head. An unsettling, eerie feeling wrapped itself around me as I read this online announcement that connected me to an object I never knew existed.

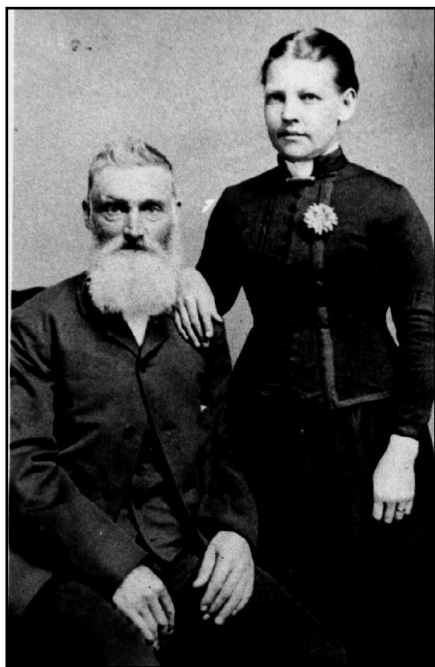
I felt a mysterious pull to this bowl. After considering the research, I believe it **did** belong to my great-grandmother. At long last, I know of an artifact that represents Maria, which happens to bring to life a passage from a letter written in 1893, kept for many years in that cedar box:

“Yours of the 3[r]d came to hand yesterday and found the old lady up and doing,” wrote Adrial in a letter to his son with an update on Maria. “She washed a little and baked bread and etc.”

Maybe she kneaded the bread in that bowl!

The surprise bowl touched on my own identity. But other surprises jumped out at me as I continued to research— that many people DO still remember the Cedar of old, whether through family stories or artifacts— and how generously those people share information. I found a booklet on Cedar’s history written in the 1970s by Karin Gallagher (Galloway); now I can build on her good work. I discovered Cedar once had a sorghum factory and a car dealership on its two-block Main Street. And I’ve heard stories that made me go “hmmmm”, leaving me puzzled about whether they can be included. I can’t help but wonder, “*What other surprises are ahead as I research the history of Cedar?*”

Linda Lee Rodgers, 2019 (*Marjorie Lee’s daughter— Marjorie Stewart Lee, that is, not Marjorie Gar Lee— she was married to my cousin.*)



Adrial and Maria Lee



Do you have a story—your own, a relative, or friend that should be told? **TELL US!** If you need help getting started, the Anoka County History Center has forms available to assist you in recording yours or another’s story.

We don't know what Robert A. Peterson wanted to film first with the new, handheld Keystone 8mm movie camera that he bought in Minneapolis on the morning of June 18, 1939. But we do know what he *did* film first: the aftermath of a disaster.

As Robert, who often went by Bob, came back north to his home in Anoka that day, he lagged not far behind the storm which dropped a devastating tornado on Champlin and Anoka. When he realized what had happened, he got his new camera out and running, made his first use of it documenting what the tornado had done. The film he took that day shows the debris, ruined homes and businesses, and people looking at all they had lost.

Fortunately for us, Bob did more than just shoot a few minutes of film. With other camera and film equipment he also purchased that year, he added in identifying information about what the film was, and where he filmed each section. For this, he used a title maker, a Model 832 Keystone Titler, designed to fit his camera. On this device, he could take a few seconds' of film of various title and text cards. Then, using his Model 734 Keystone film splicer, he carefully inserted these pieces of film into the strip of film he took of the tornado devastation, using Kodak film cement to put the pieces together into one longer strip of film that would play smoothly. This he viewed on a Keystone film editor, which allows a roll of film to pass under a magnifying lens with a backlight for viewing and a hand crank to move the film from one side of the device to the other.

Thanks to Bob's care and equipment, the film now not only gives us moving images of Champlin and Anoka in the immediate aftermath of the 1939 tornado, but it also provides identifying information, telling us which family's destroyed home we are seeing as the film plays. Bob's tornado film has lived here at ACHS for many years now. More recently, his family donated not only the movie camera used to capture that film, but also the other equipment described above and the movie projector Bob used to watch this and other films he took once the editing process was finished. It is wonderful to be able to tell such a full story related to an Anoka resident and an important (if tragic) event in Anoka's history. Having all of the physical artifacts that go with the film, as well as the footage itself, is a great treasure.

The tornado film is digitized and available for viewing here at the History Center in Anoka. For more information about the 1939 tornado, there are two articles in last week's June 14, 2019 edition of the Anoka UnionHerald newspaper, or feel free to contact us here at ACHS.





How we jiggled: Jell-O Cook-off recap

Naked Jell-O thumb wrestling in Blaine on May 11 kicked off the first ever Anoka County Historical Society Jell-O Cookoff! The fundraiser also tested Jell-O tossing skills, trivia, and artistic flare.

By popular vote, the winners are:

Best in Fluff (Wes and Cheryl Volkenant); Best Fruit Suspension (Kat Smithe) Best Family Story (Lisa Menthe); Wild Card (Maria King); Tastiest (Melanie Weeks)

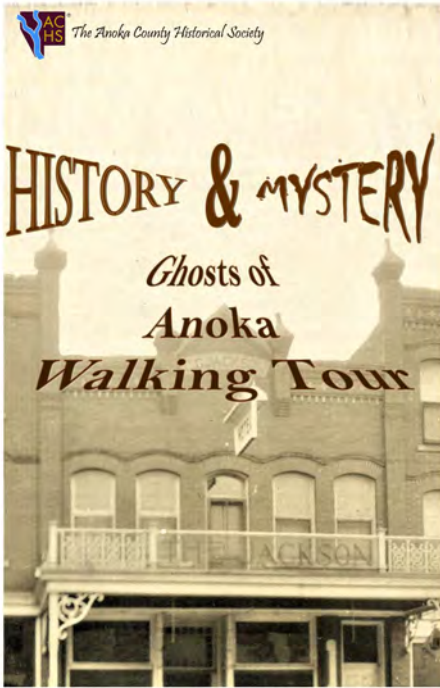
A big thank you to the SBM Fire Station #3 for hosting our event and to Jill Johnson for trekking all the way from North Dakota to make Jell-O art with everyone in attendance. Look for the mural soon at the history center!

New Interns/Table

The Oxley Crew returns for another round of history-making and video taking this summer. Six interns from the Hennepin Technical College, under the direction of instructor Rich Oxley, will spend three days each week for six weeks creating video content for the ACHS website and social media sites. In addition to this project, they will try their hand at the brand new (drumroll, please!) multitouch digital table we purchased using grant funds from the Shavlik Family Foundation.

This new technology will debut at Riverfest, July 13 with games, maps, and other interactive fun.





GHOST TOURS

The ACHS Ghost Tours are turning Sweet 16 this year!

Help us celebrate by spreading the word: we're recruiting tour guides. A guide will have an inner flare for the dramatic, a flexible nature, and be excited to join the adventure this fall. All training provided—laughter and fun are perks of the trade.

Not ready to be a guide? Look for public tours to begin in September, and enjoy an evening of History & Mystery.

EXPERIENCE A BEER FESTIVAL LIKE NONE OTHER!

A new partnership between ACHS and Hammerheart Brewing has blossomed in the recent months, resulting in our first-ever brew fest of, well...historic proportions. Not only will you sample the special creations of 10 breweries like Junkyard and Dangerous Man, but the delicious wares of Lucky Brisket will sustain you through the dinner hour. Add to that the beautiful lakeshore setting of the Nowthen Threshing Show grounds, some music wafting through the air from Steam Machine, hands on farming activities, and even some heritage machinery to ogle and we're cooking up one event you won't want to miss!

Tickets are available on Eventbrite.com for \$30 or by calling the history center.

Proceeds from this event will help maintain the operations of ACHS and preserving your local history.





We're In This Together

Get ready to tune your televisions to channel 2-2 on August 18 at 8 p.m.! The premiere of our partnership production, “We’re In This Together” debuts on Twin Cities Public Television (TPT) and we would love if you shared the moment with us.

A year ago, we began filming the documentary that focuses on the families of deployed military personnel over the past 30 years. We followed a couple spouses of Red Bulls soldiers currently deployed in Kuwait, but also incorporated the stories of those deployed before email and video chat. You’ll hear the voice of Delaney, whose father left four times during her childhood. You’ll meet Bettina, originally from Germany, who stayed home with her new baby while Scott left. There’s Lori, now a Colonel, who decided to go back to the Army with the support of her husband who didn’t quite fit the mold of “stay-at-home-mom”.

A panel discussion on June 13 at Leopold’s Mississippi Gardens followed a special screening for the donors and interviewees who created the documentary.



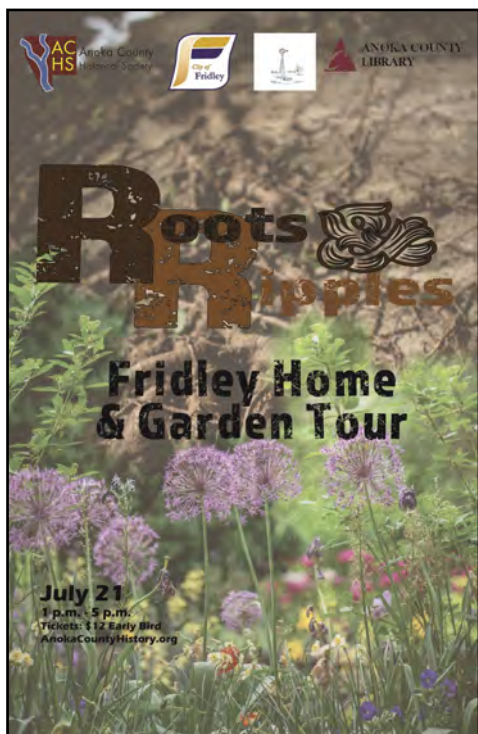
SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS FOR MAKING THIS TPT DOCUMENTARY POSSIBLE!

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FRIDLEY HOME & GARDEN TOUR

Tickets are on sale now (via phone or AnokaCountyHistory.org) for the second annual tour through homes and gardens in the suburban neighborhoods of Fridley.

July 21
1 p.m.—5 p.m.

How far do your roots go down and how many ripples do you make in the community? What natural forces work on our spaces to bring change through time? Come explore these ideas with us as we enjoy the beauty of properties in Fridley.

This tour of unique Fridley neighborhoods is brought to you by

the Fridley Historical Society, City of Fridley, and the Anoka County Historical Society (ACHS), but it is only through the generosity of homeowners in the neighborhood that this event is possible.

Visit remodeled ramblers as well as those in original condition and beautiful gardens filled with color and love! You'll also have a chance to chat with homeowners about how they created their unique spaces. This is a great opportunity to do a little research and brainstorming for your own properties.



ACHS Remembers



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

Bob Dahl
1950-2019



Did you know that July is one of the busiest months in the History biz? The kids are out of school, and all the summer fun begins! But we need YOU to make it all happen.

During this month we are joining the Fridley Historical Society to host the Fridley Home and Garden Tour. Volunteers for this event are stationed at one of the stops on the tour, welcome tour-goers, and enjoy the day helping the homeowners field questions. (Yes, those are hostas!)

Next we make our home in the old Farmhouse at the Anoka County Fair. With a kitchen, living room and very important front porch swing, ACHS volunteers welcome all to our fair home. Throughout the week we shoot the breeze, play old-time games, put together puzzles or share a craft. The fair is a place to come together for some relaxed summer fun.

“But Sara, I’ve never volunteered before!” No worries! Both of these events are perfect for volunteers of all ages, and a way to get to know what fun the history center has in store for volunteers and visitors. (We welcome our younger community members as well accompanied by an adult.)

So check your calendars and see if you can be my superhero and help bring ACHS out into the world. Each event has its own volunteer packet, so no worries about creating the details from scratch.

- July 21: Fridley Home & Garden Tour
- July 23—28: Anoka County Fair
(Many shifts—this is a hefty week)

Join the fun and sign up today!


 Sara Given
 Volunteer Coordinator
Sara@AnokaCountyHistory.org

General Donations

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Mary Beverage
Harry & Jeanette Blair
Gregory & Jackie Bortnem
Marlys Burman
Barb & Gene Case
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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

**M
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Y**

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

July Fourth — ACHS closed

Anoka Riverfest and ACHS Exhibit Opening

July 13, 10-4 p.m.
 History Center and Downtown Anoka

Fridley Historic Home and Garden Tour

July 21, 1-5 p.m.
 Location: Begins at the Fridley Historical Society
 611 Mississippi St NE, Fridley, MN 55432

Anoka County Fair

July 23-28, all day
 Find us in the Historic Farmhouse

Premiere of “We’re In This Together”

August 18, 8 p.m.
 Channel 2-2 (TPT) on your television

Nowthen Threshing Show

August 16-18, all day
 Find us at the General Store

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



ACHS has a NEW website!!

Visit us on the web at
AnokaCountyHistory.org



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

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HISTORY 21

Volume 49 No.5 September-October 2019

“Weather forecast for tonight: dark.” George Carlin

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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Front Cover: Fourth grade, Centerville School, 1952-53 Object ID: 2015.1607.027

From the President

Veerac, a light delivery truck built in Anoka from 1911 – 1914, powered by a 20 horse power two-cylinder engine, was manufactured at the Anoka plant. Three different body styles were offered, including open express, stake, and express at prices ranging from \$850 to \$1,000. The total number built is unclear,

however, by 1914, 103 Veerac trucks were registered in Minnesota.

We know of only one functional truck to exist today. It was purchased new by the Big Timber, Montana fire department and was displayed at the Nowthen Threshing Show in August.

Your Historical Society board has empowered a special committee of board members to research and gather Veerac history in addition to the blueprints and small engine we have in the collection. If anyone knows of parts or memorabilia we would love to hear from you.

The name Veerac is an acronym derived from the engine “Valveless Explosion Every Revolution Air Cooled”.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis R. Berg".

Dennis Berg, ACHS President



From the Director

We recently announced our participation in an initiative called “Facing Change”, spearheaded by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM). According to the press release, the “unprecedented national initiative to diversify museum boards and leadership” will “provide the framework, training, and resources for museum leaders to build inclusive cultures within their institutions that more accurately reflect the communities

they serve.” What that means for ACHS on a local level is carving out time from our Board agendas to look more closely at the demographics of Anoka County, the composition of our leadership at the museum, and how we can hang the welcome sign on the door in big, bold print. We will look at what “diversity” means in terms of age range, gender, economic status, geography, religion, ethnicity, race, and physical abilities. The Board will meet with other institutions selected for this project, a consultant assigned to us, and work through how best to add representation from all walks of life at our history center. It’s exciting to join a national conversation on a relevant topic. We’ll keep you updated!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca Ebnet-Desens".

Rebecca Ebnet-Desens, Executive Director



The Wise Murder Case

Newspaper reports of crime in 1900 were very limited; though it is not known if this was because crime was down or because the papers simply did not report it. Without official records, the real answer may never be known.

The lack of reporting changed dramatically on May 27, 1900. That night, many rounds from different weapons were fired through the window of the William Wise home, reported in Mrs. Grace Irvine's 1962 history of Grow Township to be about a mile from Andover on the corner of the Andover and Constance Road, now known as County Road 18 and 16 in Grow. [*Editors note: anyone able to identify the location in modern terms, please contact ACHS*] That night, Martha (aged 17) and Eliza (aged 15) were waiting for a visit from James Hardy and Elmer Miller, boys whom they had met frequently and exchanged letters. The sisters had excused themselves from a family game of cards to go to the front room to write letters while they waited, leaving their parents and two brothers in the kitchen, situated between two windows, one on the north side and another on the south. Suddenly, gunshots came through the south window and hit their mother, Eliza Ann, four times. As she fell to the floor, brother Joseph was shot twice. Father William, sitting on the east side of the table, was also shot from the direction of the south window. After his mother was shot, the youngest child, Willie (aged 8), began screaming and running around the kitchen. Momentarily, he stopped screaming, approached the north window, and looked out. He then commenced screaming again and ran away from the window. The shot that killed Willie was the last shot fired and came from the north window. At this point, Martha and Eliza ran to the neighbor's house for help and consequently summoned the authorities.

Sheriff George Merrill questioned the daughters that night and began collecting

*Above: The Wise House circa
1900. Object id:P2090.298*

evidence as he tried to piece together what happened. The first individuals on the suspect list were cleared thanks to solid alibis. Nearly three weeks passed before any authorities made an arrest—a local man, Ben Johnson of Constance, was taken into custody. His hearing the following week proved his innocence and the Anoka County Board of Commissioners offered a \$1,000 reward for information leading to a conviction of the murderers.

Merrill and his detectives questioned the Wise sisters again, but no arrests were made until July. At this time, Elmer, James, and another boy, William Mattison, were taken into custody and questioned about the murders. The hearing was long and testimony from the Wise daughters implicated the boys. Martha claimed that the four discussed the girls' inheritance money and that Elmer said he could aim a rifle through one kitchen window to the other. Eliza claimed she saw Elmer pointing a gun through the window and that they discussed who would get the inheritance money.

William Wise, paralyzed from the incident but having survived, also testified. He thought he heard a woman's voice shouting, "Run, boys, run!" when the shooting stopped. He also said he heard Willie laugh as though he recognized someone outside. Willie himself, only eight years old at the time, died immediately and never had a chance to confirm this statement.

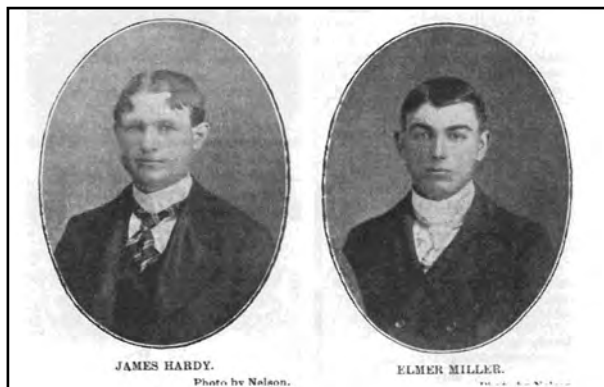
After the conclusion of the testimonies, the judge did not believe the evidence strong enough to hold Elmer and James over for trial with a grand jury

in the fall. They were let go, but William Mattison remained, weighted down by a weak alibi.

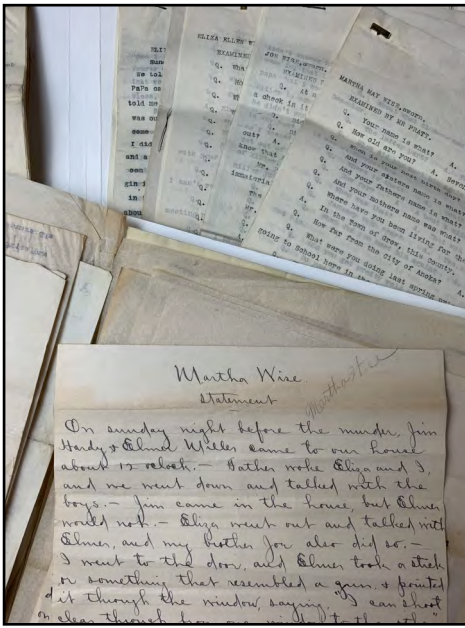
Further investigation turned up what was believed to be one of the murder weapons in the mud of Round Lake. Threads from a blanket in the possession of the boys matched the material used as wadding in the shotgun blasts found at the murder scene. Investigators found shell casings and read



Anoka City Hall, the location of a dance Elmer and James took the Wise sisters. Object id: 2062.1.13



James Hardy and Elmer Miller seen here in newspaper photos from 1900. Photos by Nelson.



TEN YEARS LATER

Eliza Ann Wise's father, Patrick Noonan, bequeathed to her money stored in a Prince Edward Island's bank. In 1910, 10 years after her death, a banker contacted Anoka County attorney Albert Pratt regarding the inheritance, which would then belong to Eliza Ann's surviving children. Although the whereabouts of Martha and Joseph were unknown to most at the time, Pratt knew Eliza was living in Minneapolis under the pseudonym of Violet Wise. He reached out to her about the money, but she wished to remain undercover "on account of a little matter in which the police are interested." She did not respond to Pratt because she feared that getting involved will result in her identity being discovered, thus forcing her to flee the city.

"...Eliza is still alive, is in a sporting house in Minneapolis, under an assumed name, and is pretty much sub rosa at present, on account of a little matter in which the police are interested, or at least she thinks they are, and I have an idea she is right. So any attempt to communicate with her directly would result in her leaving the City and getting under cover entirely." (A letter dated February 18, 1910 to Mr. H. Capewell in Toronto.

letters between the daughters and suspects. Elmer and James once more came under suspicion and authorities moved them to the Hennepin County jail for safekeeping.

This story, told with vivid detail that grew each week, filled the pages of both the *Anoka Union* and the *Anoka Herald*, Anoka's competing newspapers. Both papers said the murders were the talk on everyone's lips and offered many editorials and opinions about the case, including condemnations of how the investigations had been handled. Each paper cited public sentiment and praised their favorite side, while berating the opposing side in addition to accusations of the "other" paper dragging politics into the case. Sheriff Merrill was caught in the middle, and in October, he wrote a letter the newspapers published.

When Elmer and James came before the grand jury, the story of what happened that night began to

unravel. The newspapers printed court testimony almost word-for-word and told how the boys were courting the Wise daughters—much to the chagrin of the Wise parents. The girls boarded in town so they could go to school and William had left instructions that they were not to call on the girls at the boarding house. That pushed the girls to meet them at dances and other places. Martha, the older daughter, told the boys she and her sister would inherit money from their mother and land from their father when their parents were gone.

A scheme apparently developed to remove the elder Wise family members from the picture, but Martha said the agreement was that her brothers were not to be hurt. Testimony was tangled and conflicting. Sheriff Merrill was put on the stand to talk about the evidence he'd gathered and what he had done to solve the case. When Merrill became part of the case, he was not allowed to act as the sheriff in the courtroom. The county coroner filled that role during the hearings and trial.

The grand jury indicted Miller and Hardy. They entered their pleas of not guilty of the murder of Mrs. Wise. Their bail was set at \$5,000 each.

More pages of testimony flooded the newspapers when the trial began, and after hearing a parade of character witnesses, experts on the fiber comparisons and the marks made by the hammer on the shell casings, surveyors on the distances between the known whereabouts of the accused and the scene of the murders, and experts on the road conditions, the jury brought back a verdict of not guilty.

The newspapers had a heyday with editorials about how lax Anoka County justice was and how lawless the county appeared—especially if the suspected were not made to atone for their crimes. Who did the shooting and how involved the Wise sisters really were in the scheme remains a mystery.



Does this story intrigue you?
Would you love to see it come
alive before your eyes in a Mock
Trial (yes, that includes dinner!)
So would we!

At this time, we're polishing some
research, writing the script, and
recruiting volunteers who love the
stage. If that sounds like something
you would love to do—costumes,
props, the dramatic pointed fingers and fake tears—please drop us a note
via email, Rebecca@anokacountyhistory.org, or phone.

There is a whole life-cycle of beer, from brewing to bottling, sale, and consumption, and (sometimes) beyond. With our new partnership with Hammerheart Brewing and the brew fest coming up, we decided to take a look at the beer-related artifacts that we have in the collection here at ACHS.



On the production side, we have a bottle capper that belonged to St. Francis resident Ray Steinke, who made his own beer and wine at home for two decades, from the 1970's through the 1990's. After setting the unused cap on top of the beer bottle, he would place this capper over top of it and tap it down with a hammer or mallet. The pressure of the capper then caused the cap to crimp down around the rim of the bottle, and the beer was ready to go.

When someone was ready to drink the beer, though, they would need a bottle-opener to get it open. These come in many shapes and sizes, and have been a common item used for advertising over the years. One such bottle opener that we have in the collection is attached to a key ring with an additional tab advertising the St. Francis Auto Parts store, dated ca. 1990's.

Of course, not all beer is bottled, as the keg tapping equipment that we have from Grosslein Beverage Company reminds us. Although Grosslein got started during Anoka County's dry years, they distributed beer once Prohibition officially ended in 1933. We have a large collection of Grosslein artifacts here, including a couple of different types of tapping equipment; some are altogether as one piece that went into a keg, pumped out any excess air, and then provided a spout from which to pour the beer. Other versions come in two pieces, with the pump and tap fitting together in order to work.

Canned beer is common as well, and sometimes the cans themselves become methods of advertising or commemoration. Those familiar with the Anoka Halloween celebrations are probably aware of the Halloween beer cans that were produced in the late 1970's-early 1980's. Less well-known is the beer can which features Anoka County's first trained police dog, King. Created in 1981 as a fundraiser for the Anoka County Humane Society, it was hoped that King's image on the can would encourage people to buy it.

What happens after a beer can is empty, though? Some, such as the Halloween and Humane Society ones, are washed and kept as souvenirs. Most are thrown away or recycled. But some find a new life, as in the case of this beer can hat created by Shirley Ziegler of Blaine in the early 1970's. Shirley took advantage of a brief, widespread interest in such hats by making and selling many over a couple of years. This one did not get sold, and eventually made its way to the museum.

For more info check out the latest QCTV episode featured at AnokaCountyHistory.org



Traditional Ale and Lager Festival



September 14th, 2019

Presented by the **ANOKA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

@ Nowthen Threshing Grounds

7415 Old Viking Blvd NW, Anoka, MN 55303

PARTICIPATING BREWERS

Hammerheart Brewing, Hayes' Public House, Junkyard Brewing, Bauhaus Brew Labs, Klockow Brewing, Fair State Brewing, Dangerous Man Brewing, Northbound Smokehouse & Brewpub, Bent Brewstillery, and a few more to be announced...

MUSIC, FOOD, AND ENTERTAINMENT

- Lucky Brisket Food Truck
- 2 hours of Old-tyme and Bluegrass music by Steam Machine
- Presentation by Ale Jail Beer & Cider Buyer Joey Crane
- Anoka County Historical Society "Rum Runners" presentation
- Presentation on "How to make an old brew recipe new"
- Antique farm tool hands-on and demonstrations
- Threshing equipment on display courtesy of the Nowthen Historical Power Association volunteers

TICKETS

\$30 and the event is 21+

Ticket includes printed sample glass, screen printed festival print, and access to beer, music, and entertainment.

Does not include food from Lucky Brisket

Available at the door, by calling the history center, or online:

www.anokacountyhistory.org



If you've stopped in at the History Center recently, you'll notice a few "Construction" signs have popped up. One of the most interesting and fun things we can do is change up the information and stories you can visit in the gallery.

First off, we're swapping the National Register Property exhibit from the Kline Sanitarium to Colonial Hall. Not only do we have a booklet ready to go with much more in-depth information on this property, but you can see a "2-Minute History" video about the building on our website. This information coupled with some artifacts from the Doctors Aldrich will certainly tell a story close to home in Anoka.

Just down the road in Ramsey, many will remember the BBQ of now-legendary Dan Laws. While we've had the mural wall up for some time now and produced a QCTV episode on the restaurant, we thought it time to add in some new photos that were donated to the collection and freshen up the text panels a bit. Small changes, but one that will make your experience just that much fuller.

As the Board of Directors embarks on the Facing Change diversity initiative, we can take advantage of the opportunity to create space for discussion. What better place to do that than in a school house? We're packing away the student desks and cheerleading uniform to make space for an evolving exhibit on what it looks like to not be...you. Whatever that may be—dyslexic, handicapped, blind, deaf, or one of a variety of genders, races, or ethnicities. We would like to know how you define "diversity" and how ACHS can embody all geography, economic classes, ages, and education levels.



We're In This Together

Well, it happened! The documentary premiered to national and state audiences on August 18. Right there on your television screens! Wait, you missed it? You mean you were watching the Vikings instead? Never fear! Visit our website under the Veterans Voice section or TPT.org/AnokaCounty to find the digital version on-demand anytime you would like to watch. If you still like the idea of TV, you can tune in September 11 at 8 a.m., 2 p.m., and 8 p.m. when it will be re-run.

We would like to extend a “thank you” to the Red Bulls and Minnesota State Fair folks, along with other organizers of Military Appreciation Day who invited us to not only have a booth to discover more stories, but also a program time on the Dan Patch stage. TPT also took the time to record family stories in preparation for Veterans Day and showed our documentary again in the evening for those visiting their booth.

We would love to share this production with other groups to enrich the conversation between military personnel and civilians. Think of it like a book club meeting, but with a video! This would fit well with social groups, clubs, churches, YMCA, or as a community forum. Add in some refreshments and great questions (we can provide some to get you going) and let the chatting commence. If you're up for it, record the sessions or take some notes and submit them to ACHS. We would love to know how everyone is talking about deployments, family, and their impact on community.





This has been a busy summer and we tackled it with gusto thanks to the many volunteers who helped. You showed up to lend a hand at Anoka's Riverfest, the Fridley Home & Garden Tour, the Anoka County Fair, the Nowthen Threshing Show as well as heading out on your own to lead oral history interviews, and digging into projects at the History Center.

The short answer is: we couldn't have made the impact in the community we did without your help. Because of you, people who never knew that ACHS existed have come for their first visit. Because of you, the items in the collection are accessible to more people. Because of you we are a better organization.

With nearly **1,000 HOURS** of volunteer muscle, time, sweat, laughter and fun accumulated over the **THREE MONTHS** of summer there is no **THANK YOU** big enough. You are appreciated!

Check out some of the fun I captured of you hard at work.

Sara Given
 Sara Given

Volunteer Coordinator

Sara@AnokaCountyHistory.org



Left & Middle: Aurora, Elise, and Linda selling candy at the Nowthen Threshing Show.



Right: Dennis Berg, ACHS President, playing games at the County Fair.

The blue crew! We promise people wear other colors too.

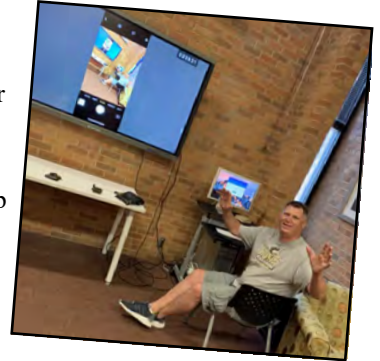


Left: Ryan transcribing oral history interviews. He's currently working on one from Charles L. Horn Jr. Middle: Jane helping patrons with a research question. Right: Intern Joshua working with Audra to accession new items to the collection.



Left: Johannes checking out his first book to history center regular Bryce.

Right: Rich setting up the new Philo Room screen and showing off its mirroring capabilities.



Below: Alison clipping Anoka County news for our newspaper files.



Above: Rosanne taking a break from entering records into our database to arrange beautiful flowers.

Below: Photo sleuth Dave solving mysteries and scanning photographs into our database.



General Donations

Anoka County
Anoka Women of Today
Kevin & Patti Bellows
Julie Braastad
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Sandra Connor
Vance Desens
Dan Erhart
John & Shaaron Freeburg
Russ Hoenig
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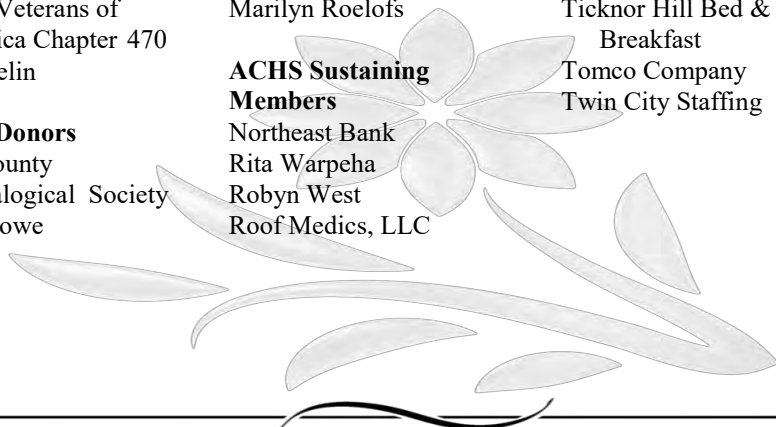
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Columbus Council
2018
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Hawaii Nail Spa
Nowthen Historical
Power Association
Peterson Shoes
Pierce Refrigeration
Plants & Things
Ticknor Hill Bed &
Breakfast
Tomco Company
Twin City Staffing



ACHS Remembers



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

David Conger
1926-2019

M
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Y

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

Traditional Ale & Lager Festival

Sept. 14, 3-8 p.m.
A beer festival like no other! See page 9 for
more details.
Tickets: \$30 at AnokaCountyHistory.org

Ghosts of Anoka Walking Tours

They are back for their 16th year! Get your
tickets now because you don't want to miss out
on this tradition.
Various dates September & October
Tickets: \$9 at AnokaCountyHistory.org

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

Keep up with the Fun at ACHS!

The most popular post from the past two months:



Playgrounds look a
little different now....a
freshly built Rocket in
John Ward Park in
Anoka.
[#anokacountyhistory](https://www.instagram.com/anokacountyhistory)
2001.0268.505



AnokaCoHistory



Anoka County
Historical Society



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2135 Third Avenue North
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**ANOKA, MINN.
PERMIT No. 198**



OFFICIAL ELECTION BALLOT
VILLAGE OF LINO LAKES
MINNESOTA

December 2, 1958

LIQUOR LICENSE BALLOT

"Put a cross 'X' opposite the words 'For License' if you wish to vote for the proposition and a cross 'X' opposite the words 'Against License' if you wish to vote against the proposition."

"SHALL LICENSE BE GRANTED IN THE VILLAGE OF LINO LAKES FOR THE SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR?"

	FOR LICENSE	309
	AGAINST LICENSE	238

EXPLANATORY NOTE:

"If the vote is in favor of license, the Village Council will have the option of establishing a municipal Liquor Store or issuing private licenses. If the vote is against license, all retail sales of liquor within the Village will be prohibited."

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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14 - Thank You to Our Supporters

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Front Cover: Official Election Ballot Village of Lino Lakes, December 2, 1958. This ballot was for a Liquor License, allowing the village to establish a municipal liquor store and issue private liquor licenses. The vote was narrowly in favor of the measure, 309 for and 238 against. Object ID: 2010.0000.001

From the President

It's that time of year for your board to prepare and adopt next year's budget. In doing so, we have been reviewing 2019 and I am happy to report that our staff has done an excellent job of operating within the budget. The budget for 2020 will be approximately \$270,000. What doesn't show up in the budget is the wonderful gift we get each year from the city of Anoka. The building we occupy is owned by the city and all we pay for is the upkeep of the building and utilities.



Without the financial support of Anoka County we would have a difficult time fulfilling our mission. They contribute from 50-60% of our annual budget; the balance comes from fund raising, dues, grants, programs and donations. The Historical Society board appreciates the support we get from the Anoka County Board of Commissioners and the Anoka City Council. We are committed to being responsible and give them back the best return on investment possible. We are also committed to grow our program by generating additional revenue and mission support.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis R. Berg".

Dennis Berg, ACHS President



From the Director

I finished reading, "The Tattooist of Auschwitz" and found it a compelling, fictionalized story of the man who worked at the camp inking numbers on prisoner's arms. A prisoner for three years himself, Lale used his position of relative privilege to smuggle food to other prisoners, provide shelter, and show compassion wherever he could while growing a romantic relationship with another prisoner, whom he would later marry.

The author based her book on three years of story gathering from the 87-year-old Lale, building a relationship with him before he died. After I read the book, I had questions and wanted to know more about the couple, their experiences, and life after the concentration camp. What I found was a deeper conversation about fact vs fiction, representation in an emotional subject, and the greater duty storytellers have when publishing. Since then, I've had the question on my mind, "What role do we as historians play in the creation of fiction work?" If a work is a stated piece of fiction and never claims to be an academic representation of an experience, what is our responsibility to the "truth"? We would enjoy having this conversation with our members, so let us know your thoughts!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca Ebnet-Desens".

Rebecca Ebnet-Desens, Executive Director



Breaking the tie: a story of one quirky sheriff election

Much of the nation has begun to brace for the upcoming presidential election, which could prove one of the most contentious in modern memory. Many remember the drudge of “hanging chads” and other recount sagas, among other political debacles, that still spur spirited conversations. To say the history of elections—even local ones—is fraught with these tangles may feel too strong, but isn’t really very far from the truth.

Anoka County’s first sheriff, James C. Frost, died on May 26, 1896 after serving a total of 15 years and seven terms as the chief law-enforcement officer in the county. His funeral was huge, with people from all over the county coming to pay their last respects to Frost. Charles Lenfest served as one of the casket bearers.

Leaving a legacy of this magnitude open for (quite literally) a new sheriff in town created quite a stir of interest. Lenfest had won the office from Frost in 1884 by only 18 votes, though he went on to receive three reelection terms: 1886, 1888, and 1900. Not without contention, Lenfest earned the republican nomination at the 1892 convention after receiving twice the votes of his opponent. This gave him the opportunity to face off against Democratic nominee John Tierney and Prohibitionist Party candidate Joseph Ridge.

Tierney became the first Anoka County born man elected sheriff and took office in 1892 with a healthy 177 margin of votes. Born in Oak Grove in 1857, he was the son of Irish immigrants Patrick and Catherine Tierney. He owned stock in the Anoka Boot Company, was a traveling salesman for the McCormick Harvester Company, served in the Anoka fire department, was the subcontractor for the mail, was an avid hunter, loved horses and raced frequently.

After his first two years of chasing criminals and

*Above: Anoka County Court
House Object id: P2064.4.82*

solving problems that stemmed from the lack of a jail, Tierney won the Democratic nomination and again faced off against Republican Lenfest. The results put Tierney back in the sheriff's seat with 1343-917 votes.

Trying his luck one more time, Tierney faced the 1896 election. As the results remained unofficial and too close to call for the winner, the public waited. For a week. The second report published the official vote totals at 1,256 votes for John Tierney and 1,256 votes for Norman McLean. It was a tie.

County election officials noted that only once before in the county's history had there ever been a tie vote and that was "years ago" for the office of coroner. The office of sheriff could not be decided by lot, so many believed they would hold a new election unless the recount—which had to be agreed upon by both candidates—found a discrepancy and gave new totals.

Confusion in the state election laws quickly brought new speculation. According to state law, the governor had 10 days to call for a new election and that election had to be held in the same manner as the original election—which had to be held within 20 days. This, declared supporters of both candidates, was simply not possible. Some people believed they needed to start with conventions to nominate, provide time to campaign, and then hold an election. Others insisted the law of replicating the same conditions as the original election meant only those conditions on election day, not the entire process. Minnesota's Governor David Clough issued a proclamation for a new election, but before action could be taken, a delegation from Anoka made a request for the proclamation to be rescinded. Since the delegation was made up of supporters for both candidates and presented reasonable arguments, the governor rescinded the proclamation.

Unfortunately, that cleared up nothing. The lawyers contended no recount could occur because state law only allowed for the losing party to ask for the recount if they believed some irregularity in a specific precinct occurred—and then, only the votes in that precinct could be recounted. Since the Anoka County sheriff's race had no loser, neither could ask for a recount. Similarly, no one had brought forth allegations of ballot tampering or fraud, so there was no case—according to law—for a recount. Additionally, many people did not want the county to pay the estimated \$1,000 it would cost to hold a new election.

To further muddy the political waters, it was unclear as to what would happen if this were not resolved before the expiration of the sitting sheriff's term. Some people

OFFICIAL COUNTY BALLOT.		
Put a cross-mark (X) opposite the name of each candidate you wish to vote for in the square indicated by the arrow.		↓
Member of Congress—PAGE MORRIS—Republican.	<input type="checkbox"/>	VOTE FOR ONE.
Member of Congress—HENRY TRUELSEN } Democrat. Peoples.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Member of Congress—PETEB J. SEBERGER } Midroad Populist.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Member of Congress—JOHN P. JOHNSON—Socialist-Labor.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Member of Congress—	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Representative—N. K. HUNT—Republican.	<input type="checkbox"/>	VOTE FOR THREE.
Representative—EMMET MARK—Republican.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Representative—HENRY LEE—Republican.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Representative—NELS N. NELSON—Democrat.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Representative—CHARLES J. SWANSON—Democrat.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Representative—	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Representative—	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Representative—	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Representative—	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Auditor—SELDEN McGAFFNEY—Republican.	<input type="checkbox"/>	VOTE FOR ONE.
Auditor—W. E. SCANLON—Democrat.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Auditor—	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Treasurer—CHARLES W. LENFEST—Republican.	<input type="checkbox"/>	VOTE FOR ONE.
Treasurer—CARL L. JOHNSON—Democrat.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Treasurer—	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sheriff—GEORGE W. MERRILL—Republican.	<input type="checkbox"/>	VOTE FOR ONE.
Sheriff—JOHN TIERNEY—Democrat.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sheriff—	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Register of Deeds—HERMAN G. PERSKE—Republican.	<input type="checkbox"/>	VOTE FOR ONE.
Register of Deeds—D. E. SHANNON—Democrat.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Register of Deeds—	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Judge of Probate—CHARLES E. GREEN—Republican.	<input type="checkbox"/>	VOTE FOR ONE.

The 1900 election pitted incumbent Sheriff George Merrill against John Tierney. A recount revealed a number of ballot problems and illegally cast ballots.

believed Tierney simply stayed on until a qualified and duly elected person took his place. Others said when Tierney's term expired, there would be no one in the office and the county board would have to appoint someone sheriff.

The state attorney general was consulted and he questioned the legality of calling for a special election due to the conflicting nature of the laws. Both candidates finally decided they would abide by the attorney general's recommendation that "the incumbent" remain in office until an election could be held *after* the state laws had been amended to make that election clear and legal. This agreement came in part because McLean had failed to file a

second set of required election papers and so was deemed ineligible to take the office.

The Anoka County Board of Commissioners appointed Tierney as sheriff until the next election with a vote of four to one. This followed the suggestion of the state attorney general as they tried to avoid an even longer and more bitter political struggle.

While the matter felt settled for a time, the two years between elections passed quickly. Many little jabs and innuendos in the newspapers occurred about the fact that Tierney had been appointed to the office, hinting that he had received the office through political favor. This time, the opposition was determined to campaign heartily.

The conventions in Anoka filled their tickets that fall and Tierney won the democratic and peoples' party nominations without opposition. The republicans had four candidates and it took several ballots to narrow their choice. When the nominations were over, George W. Merrill stood as their candidate.

Merrill was well known in the county, as he had grown up on a farm in the Burns area and owned a threshing machine. Merrill had hired out with his threshing machine all over Anoka County for years and notably won the hearts of the grangers. Most recently, Merrill had opened a livery business in Anoka and

Grangers: Members of the Patrons of Husbandry organization. They advocated organization and cooperation of farmers to secure better prices by working together rather than individual farmers buying or selling alone.

TO THE VOTERS

To the voters of Anoka county—Since my nomination as a candidate for the office of sheriff by the Republicans of this county I have visited almost every part of the county and have attempted to call on every voter therein, but naturally I have missed some, and to them in particular and to all the voters in general I desire to say that I solicit their votes on the ground that I am competent to fill the office, that I am a loyal citizen of the county and have been for years, and that never having before asked for public office, I consider I am entitled to their consideration. These good things like public offices should not be reserved for the few, but should be passed around. I solicit your support at the polls next Tuesday, and will if elected strive to perform my duties faithfully and satisfactorily.

I desire to make this announcement through The Herald so as to reach some whom I have been unable to see—that I have not visited everyone in the county is not my fault, and I hope no one will feel slighted because I have not called on them. The shortness of the campaign has more than anything else caused me the inconvenience spoken of.

Yours Truly, GEORGE W. MERRILL.

George Merrill's campaign letter for the office of sheriff in the November 4, 1898 Anoka Herald.

was said to have made “many friends” as a result of his honest business dealings.

When the residents cast their ballots and the count began, the close nature of the race for sheriff in Anoka County became clear. It was too close to call and was actually tied (again) with only three precincts left to report. Tierney pulled ahead by five votes until the last precinct, Bethel, reported and Merrill took the election by 20 votes. Tierney blamed the loss on Centerville, where he had always been a strong vote getter until this election where he received less than 40 percent of the votes cast.

People raised some questions about the voting process when accusations surfaced about voters marking their ballots outside of the voting booth, but nothing came of the charges. Tierney quietly transferred the authority of the office of sheriff to Merrill at the first county board meeting in 1899.

At the same time the state hospital opened in Anoka, along came the election of 1900 where the name of now incumbent George Merrill appeared with that of rival John Tierney. Implications from the local newspapers suggest spirited campaigning ensued and Tierney made the most of Merrill's inability to solve a murder case.

When the ballots were counted, Tierney only had six more votes than Merrill. With the total being so close, Merrill asked for a recount, citing some voting irregularities suspected in Blaine. The recount began with the Blaine ballots. Judges found four ballots counted for Tierney that should have been counted for Merrill. That tipped the balance of the election to Merrill, but the recount also found that there were five ballots completely missing in Blaine.

As the recount continued across Anoka County, more discrepancies appeared. The matter went before the court with judges trying to decide which ballots to count and which to set aside. Some of the problems included ballots with no election judge's initials, voters not entitled to vote because they were not citizens, votes being cast by minors, and confusing, mismarked, or double marked ballots. The supporters and lawyers for both candidates argued, brought witnesses, and tried reasoning to garner enough votes for their candidate to be declared the winner.

Despite the challenge brought forward and the recount it required, the canvassing board did certify Tierney as the winner of the election. When he tried to take the office of sheriff, Merrill refused to give up the keys and books, insisting Tierney had not been legally elected. The county board swore Tierney in as the sheriff, but Merrill did not drop the challenge.

It took until mid March of 1901 to decide which ballots should be counted from several hundred disputed ballots presented by both camps, but in the end, Tierney won the election by 45 votes. The decision of the judge, printed in a voluminous document, said Merrill had received a total of 1113 votes, 119 of which were illegally cast. On Tierney's side, there were 88 illegally cast votes, leaving him 1039 votes in his favor.



George Merrill's Petition for Degrees for the Masonic Lodge, March 23, 1907. Object ID: 1971.0001.077

The realtor told them there was a hockey program in the local school district. It turned out, he was wrong.

When Roger and June Anderson moved to Andover (at the time still Grow Township) in 1972, they hoped for an easy way their two boys, Dale and Todd, could play hockey locally. Instead, Roger ended up building a program himself, starting with a local amateur league and eventually helped to start a school program at St. Francis High School in ISD #15. Aided by Bill Johnson and several others, they founded the Rum River Hockey Association in 1975.

That association flourished in spite of obstacles like not having an ice arena. In 1984, the association changed its name to St. Francis Hockey Association. The association included several teams, which allowed boys to play from a young age up through their school years. Both Anderson and Johnson coached extensively as well as taking care of the administration.

By the late 1980s, about 20 local families, along with Bill Johnson, got together and put in the collateral to get a bank loan for a local ice rink. Additionally, Johnson and others contributed much of the actual labor to build the ice arena itself. The East Bethel arena opened in 1991.

In 1991, Roger Anderson was able to realize another a long-time goal: he helped to found the hockey program at St. Francis High School when the school made the decision to move forward with that. There continues to be a strong hockey tradition in St. Francis today, thanks to the efforts of Anderson, Johnson, and others. Following the deaths of Johnson in 2004 and Anderson in 2007, their families and the local hockey groups created the Bill Johnson/Roger Anderson Memorial Hockey Scholarship to continue supporting local St. Francis hockey and hockey players. The Anderson family continues their hockey legacy in the present as well, with Dale and Tonja Anderson following in Dale's father's footsteps as a coach and leader in local hockey.

This interesting local hockey history came to ACHS recently thanks to a donation of Roger Anderson's papers by the Anderson family. These documents trace the development of first the Rum River Hockey Association through the St. Francis Hockey Association. The collection includes by-laws, minutes, financial statements, training and tournament schedules, and a variety of handbooks and rulebooks. Also included is a set of materials from the Minnesota Amateur Hockey Association, in which the Rum River/St. Francis Association participated. These documents are available at the History Center in Anoka, so stop by or contact us if you would like to know more!



SCORE SHEET

GOALS SCORED				
PERIOD	TEAM	SCORES	ASSISTS	TIME
1	RR	13		8:15
2	RR	14	12	17:58

PENALTIES				
PERIOD	TEAM	PLAYER	OFFENSE	TIME
1	RR	14	TRIP	4:40
2	RR	8	TRIP	5:14
2	RR	11	TRIP	6:21
2	PRINCEGEON	16	CHECK	7:34
2	RR	7	TRIP	5:10

DATE: _____

REF 1- _____

REF 2- _____

SCORER: *R.J. Brown*

COMMENTS: _____

TEAM	1	2	3	OT	F
RR	1	1	0		2
PR	0	0	0		0

PLAYED AT _____

Archiving TIPS & tricks

PRESERVING YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS

Now is a great time to think about your family photographs and ways you could improve their lifespan!

Step 1: Where are your photographs?

It's helpful to start any preservation project by simply making a list to identify where the photographs live and about how many exist. Now you don't have to try and hold it all in your head or worry about overlooking something later. The list might look something like this:

- 2 photo albums, 3 scrapbooks: living room book case
- 1 shoe box (approx. 200 photos): guest room closet
- Unknown number of digital photos: desktop computer
- 300 digital photos: smartphone

Step 2: What condition are the photographs in?

If the photos seem to be in good condition, then you can leave them in their current storage for now; just remember to check on them regularly! These are some target preservation conditions to shoot for:

- **Temperature:** the recommended range for preservation is 65°-70°F. *Steady* temperature is the most important element, though: keep your photographs somewhere the temperature doesn't make wild up-and-down swings.
- **Relative Humidity:** the recommended range for preservation is 35%-55%. Like temperature, a *steady* relative humidity that isn't too high or too low is the best thing, even if it falls outside that range.
- **Water and Sunlight:** exposure to either of these things will damage photographs. Make sure to keep yours somewhere relatively dark, and away from places that might be exposed to water. If you have photographs in a wall display, place them where they will receive the least amount of direct sunlight from the windows, and be aware that indirect sunlight can cause fading as well.
- **Backups:** are your digital photographs backed up somewhere? Any digital item that is stored in only one place is vulnerable to loss. Try and get on a schedule to back up all your important digital files regularly.

Step 3: What should I do next?

- **Identify:** Work with family members to identify the people and places in your photographs. *Include full names, dates, and addresses, as known and applicable.* What information would a descendent 50 or 100 years from now want about this image?
- **Weed:** Consider removing unneeded duplicates or blurry photos.
- **Store:** Work on improving the storage of your physical photographs by getting archival quality (acid-free) folders, photo sleeves, and/or boxes.
- **Ask:** Feel free to contact us at the History Center. We are happy to help!

IT'S PARTY TIME



We want to say THANK YOU for being a part of the ACHS family for another year, so we are throwing an end of year party just for you.

As a special MEMBERS ONLY present, we've invited Nate Otto of Rum River Restoration to share a special program about player pianos. Nate offers high-quality restoration and repair services to customers with player pianos, reed organs, and other pneumatically-operated automatic musical instruments from the 1890-1930's.

WHEN: Tuesday, December 3

TIME: Open house, 5:30—8 p.m.

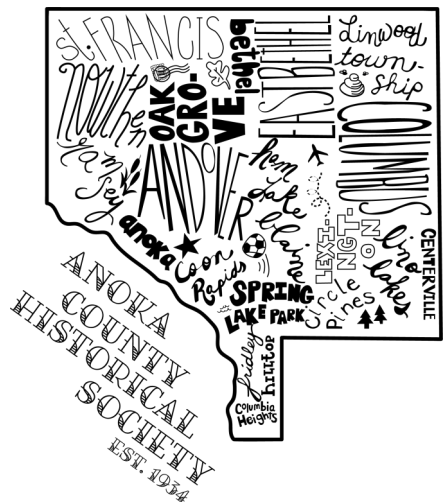
Program begins at 6:30 p.m.

WHERE: Anoka County History Center

Come join all, or part, of the fun!

ACHS Swag Now Available!

Show your Anoka County love with this design featuring the 21 communities in the County from St. Francis and Linwood to Anoka, Coon Rapids, and even tiny Hilltop. ACHS volunteer Holly Reese created this original design, which you can order printed on *just about any item* at our new TeePublic gift shop (find the link on our website). Choose your favorite t-shirt, sweatshirt, mug, sticker, pillow, phone case...you name it...along with the size and color and it will arrive on your doorstep.





Traditional Lager Festival a hit

Our first (now annual!) fundraiser showcased the specialty brews of 10 companies, including Hammerheart, Klockow Brewing, and Hayes Public Brewhouse. Each brewer brought two or three different recipes for attendees to sample in glasses etched with the event logo. An open house format, participants had the opportunity to ask questions of the business owners, and compare

notes with fellow enthusiasts. Sandwiches from Lucky Brisket and music from Steam Machine added to the atmosphere of the Nowthen Threshing Show grounds, where we held the event. Big thanks to all who made it possible!



Fun at Wargo Heritage Lab

From September 10 to October 4, ACHS joined Wargo Nature Center for their annual Heritage Lab. The Heritage Lab is a full day, outdoor historical experience for students grades 1-6. This year 2,000 children rotated through seven different stations each day where they participated in hands-on activities learning about pioneers in Minnesota around the 1860s.



ACHS reached into the history of the county to talk about what would happen if a new resident in this area got sick or injured. Students learned about Dr. Aurora Giddings who moved to Anoka in 1854. He wrote several letters to family back east describing his new home and experiences here, which are in the collection. With the children's help, we then recreated one of the doctor's most surprising medical situations.



The rock stars of the volunteer world in October are the people on the Ghost Tour team. These volunteers start by learning the ghost stories and history in the official Ghosts of Anoka Walking Tour. While they tell the stories in their own words, they are careful about keeping true to the experiences homeowners have shared with ACHS and the history of Anoka and make sure they know the material each fall. New guides shadowed veteran guides, and even cajoled friends and family to act as guinea pigs on their first practice tours.

The Ghost Tour season, as we call it, started on September 7 with the first public tour. Between that first tour and Halloween the 12 guides led a grand total of 74 tours in all types of weather. From sunshine and mosquitoes to moonshine, rain, and the nips of cold in the air, the guides led groups of up to 25 around Anoka. I can't express how grateful we are for their dedication and work over these two months. These tours are our biggest fundraiser. Each \$9 ticket sold helps ACHS with the basics—keeping the lights on, and the artifacts and stories entrusted to us safe.

It is also an opportunity for us to connect with 1,600 new friends, most of whom have never visited the History Center. In the moments before they head out on their tour, the guests explore the exhibit hall, learn about local history and make plans for a return visit. The ripples extend out beyond one night of history and mystery.

Next year will be the 17th year of our Ghost Tours and the 100th anniversary of Anoka Halloween, which will fall conveniently on a Saturday. With the calendar stars aligning, we expect an even busier year. If you have an inner tour guide bursting to get out, please join the team for next year! The ghosts are always up to make new friends.

Sara Given
Volunteer Coordinator
Sara@AnokaCountyHistory.org

HOW TO GO ON A GHOST TOUR



Purchase your ticket ahead of time...tours sell out fast!



Check in and confirm your time—sometimes there are five tours going out in one night!

Hang out, play games, explore the museum, make memories, & take group photos (the lighting is better here.)



Head out with your tour guide to explore Anoka's history & mystery.

Tell your friends—
Come back next year!



General Donations

Mel & Kathy Aanerud
Anoka High School
Class of 1969
Anoka Women of
Today
Richard Bergling
Leticia Blommel
Ann & Brent Campbell
Margaret Coley
Jacqueline Danielson
David Fandrich
Friends of Fridley
Senior Program
Joan Fritz
Janet Galvin
Mike Gamache
Kara Hansen
Kandic Henkemeyer
Merlin Hunt
Jodi Kleinschmidt
Nancy Lambert
Chema Malu
Alison Marzolf
Ross & Mandy
Meisner
Arlene Mootz
Mary & Scott Nolan
Stephanie Pagac
Jim Ployman & Lynda
Long
Arthur Reese
Joe & Barb Ridge
Linda Rodgers
Mary Sigmundik
Andrew Smith
Sheryl Stansbury
Lauren & Jacqueline
Turnquist
Peter Wojciechowski

Annual Appeal

Gloria Given
Mark & Laura Hilse

Artifact Donors

Ann Campbell
Anoka American
Legion Edward B.
Cutter Post 102
City of Coon Rapids
Michael Clark
Marcus Cutter
Linda Davis
Susan Fanucci
Glen Hardin
Clifford Johnson
Knights of Columbus
#2018
Edward & Amy Larson
Carol Moen
Dianne Pederson
Sandra Purtle
Chester Tollefson

ACHS New

Members

City of Coon Rapids
Julie & Jeff Kezar
Kari Manganello
Elsa Nilsson
Barbara Olson
Mary Sigmundik
Sheila Van Sloun

**ACHS Sustaining
Members**

Northeast Bank
Rita Warpeha
Robyn West
Roof Medics, LLC

Thomas & Kristi
Sullivan
Terry Overacker
Plumbing

**ACHS Business
Members**

Anoka Dental
Anoka Knights of
Columbus Council
2018
Bachman's Floral
Home and Garden
The BIG White House
Coon Rapids Historical
Commission
Fifth Avenue Dental
Hawaii Nail Spa
Nowthen Historical
Power Association
Peterson Shoes
Pierce Refrigeration
Plants & Things
Ticknor Hill Bed &
Breakfast
Tomco Company
Twin City Staffing



**M
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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

ACHS Member Party

WHEN: Tuesday, December 3
TIME: Open house, 5:30—8 p.m.
 Program begins at 6:30 p.m.
WHERE: Anoka County History Center
 See page 10 for more information

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



ACHS will be closed for the holidays on the following dates:

- November 28-29
- December 24-25
- December 31- January 1

Anoka Union Dec. 16, 1942



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

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