



Anoka County
Historical Society



HISTORY 21

Volume 48 No.6 November-December 2018

Did you know there were 21 cities in the county?

AnokaCountyHistory.org

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

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

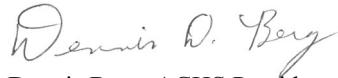
From the President

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

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

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

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



Dennis Berg, ACHS President



From the Director

I would like to extend a huge thank you to all of the roughly 1,700 people who took time out of their evening to enjoy a ghost tour around the neighborhoods of Anoka. As we close our 15th year of conducting these tours, we are extremely grateful for the ongoing support of this fundraiser. While it's a simple premise--storytelling onsite--the outpouring of interest resulted in a completely sold-out season. That's right. Every ticket for 83 tours. We will continue to update and adapt the tour to make it relevant for years to come so both new and experienced tour-goers will find something to enjoy.



Rebecca Ebnet-Mavencamp, Executive Director

Andover, Anoka, Bethel, Blaine, Centerville, Circle Pines, Columbia Heights, Columbus,



Red Bull deployment begins TPT production

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

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

We began the Veterans Voice project with the intention of capturing the stories of veterans who have served since the Gulf War. With the advent of this deployment, which affects over 50 families in Anoka County, we decided to expand our project into

an opportunity for the community to witness a deployment through the eyes of those living it. To see what doesn't get covered in the news media. To peek into the window of these individuals on their daily journey through a year without a loved one. To accomplish this, we have partnered with Twin Cities Public Television and the Red Bulls to film several families during the current deployment. We also invite the family





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



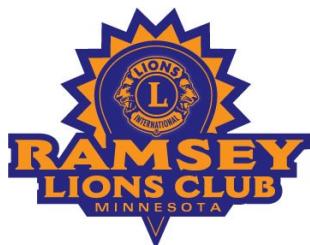
and friends of these individuals to submit short written pieces, video, and photos to ACHS. We will curate these submissions, along with updates from the Red Bulls, into a timeline on our website to provide a space for all the emotions and experiences of an overseas deployment to find a voice.

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

and helping them realize that indeed, their story matters.

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

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



Meet the Gallatins

By Susan Thao

To many, like myself, deployment is a foreign word. I knew what it was, but to say that I understood the physical, emotional, or even psychological implications of that word, I didn't have a clue. Following the Gallatins through this upcoming ten-month deployment as the production assistant has been eye-opening so far.

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

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

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

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

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

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

"We're ready."



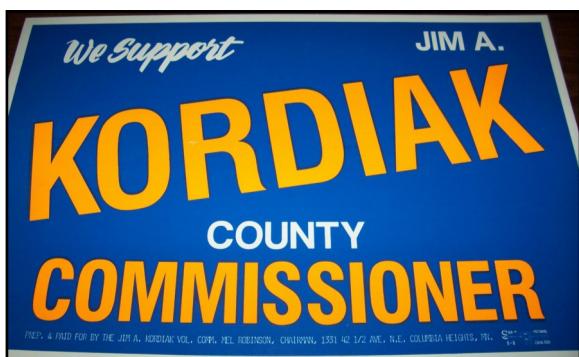


Honoring a Legacy: *Jim Kordiak*

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

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

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



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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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



Collections Programming coming in 2019

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

ACHS AROUND TOWN

Creating History from Facts

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

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

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



Hennepin Technical CollegeSM



Hennepin Technical College: National Register Series underway

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





Monster City Display

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

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

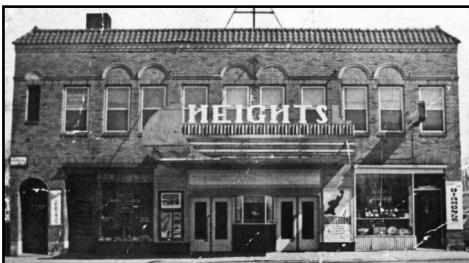
On October 23 Barnhill and Yogi Rueff were joined by Tory Arfstrom-Ferréy at the history center.

Together they discussed the fascination we have with the weird and the strange, from the monster toys to the surreal art of Jon Arfstrom. What is it about monsters that we find so intriguing? Attendees participated in a meaningful, enjoyable discussion.



History of Columbia Heights & Hilltop Program

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



What Used to Be Tour

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



Ghost Tour Craziness!

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



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

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



BOOS AND BREWS II

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



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

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

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

Sara Given
Volunteer Coordinator
Sara@AnokaCountyHistory.org

Keep up with the Fun at ACHS!

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



Anoka County
Historical Society



AnokaCoHistory



AnokaCoHistory

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Barbara Baldwin
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Sandra Connor
Dan & Laarni Frank
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Friends of Fridley Senior Program
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Donna George
Merlin Hunt
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Chapter 470

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Alexander Springer

ACHS New Members

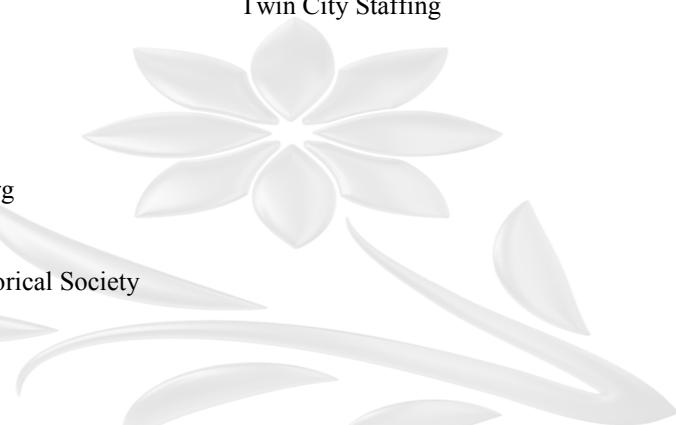
Kelsey Kelley
Cindy McKenney
Don Taylor
Bonnie & Dennis Walter

ACHS Sustaining Members

Northeast Bank
Rita Warpeha

ACHS Business Members

Anoka Dental
Anoka Knights of Columbus
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Bachman's Floral Home and Garden
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Roof Medics, LLC
Terry Overacker Plumbing
Ticknor Hill Bed & Breakfast
Tomco Company
Twin City Staffing



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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**What to do at Tea Time: Parlor Games**

November 4, 2 p.m.—Northtown Library

Museum in a Box: WWI

November 8, 2 p.m.—Ramsey City Hall

Registration: cityofframsey.com/ParkEvents**The Star Wars Holiday Special**

December 4 — Anoka History Center

Open House 5 p.m.—8 p.m.

Program at 6 p.m.

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

**CLOSED****ACHS will be closed on the following dates:**

November 17 for Rebecca Ebnet-Mavencamp's Wedding

November 22, 23 for Thanksgiving

December 25 for Christmas

January 1 for New Years Day

**ACHS Remembers**

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

E. Lou Morse
1924-2018Roy Downs
1925-2018Jim Marsolais
1941-2018

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