

SERVING:

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



What a Drag in Coon Rapids

By John Evans,
ACHS Volunteer

If you turn north from Main Street just west of Bunker Hills Park, at the stoplight between the Animal Humane Society and the new railroad overpass, you'll find yourself in a quiet residential neighborhood. On a summer weekend afternoon, there will be children playing in yards and adults mowing grass. It wasn't always this way. Fifty years ago, at that same location, a similar afternoon would have been punctuated with smoke and squealing tires and the roars of spectators. From 1959 until 1976, that now-sedate stretch of Coon Rapids was the site of Minnesota Dragways, a venue where not only local racers but also top pros from around the country tested their skills and their machines in the quarter mile.

The entrance was near the present day intersection of Main and Avocet, and as you drive up Avocet you cover approximately the same stretch of pavement that the long-ago racer would have sped through. The staging area and the tower were on the left and parking on the right. The finish line was near today's entrance to the county compost site.

On a typical Saturday or Sunday afternoon, the local racers came on first to warm up the crowd. They faced off using some of the same modified vehicles they drove back and forth on Anoka's main drag on Saturday nights. Although there were bleachers, many of the fans preferred to stand along the chain-link fence, as close as possible to the finish line. It was almost always hot. The racetrack developers seemed to have chosen the flattest, sandiest, and most treeless swatch of Anoka County they could find. The afternoon's program continued with the professionals in their open-wheeled dragsters, complete with parachutes. Famous names, such as Don "The Snake" Prudhomme and Tom "Mongoose" McEwen, were sometimes on the bill. Perhaps the biggest Dragways crowd came in July of 1972, when Evel Knievel put in an appearance to jump three vans and eight cars in his steam-powered Harley Davidson. This

was less than two months before his famous attempt to clear Idaho's Snake River Canyon. 30,000 people packed themselves in. One longtime Anoka county resident, who was eight months pregnant at the time, passed out in the inescapable heat, and came to in her car in time to hear a loudspeaker announcement about the "lady who needed assistance." Moments later, Evel himself appeared at the window to ask if she was okay, and she was, but she was unable to get back inside to see him jump. Dragways aficionados tell of an hour-long traffic jam at the event's conclusion, and of people who walked two miles home from the show and arrived before their friends who had driven.

Minnesota Dragways dropped its last flag in 1976, and a few years later Northstar Speedway, just across the border in Ramsey County next to I-35W, also ceased its operations. For a number of years the Dragways tower was visible from Main Street and gave hope to those who mourned its passing, but it's unlikely there'll ever again be another speedway, for either drags or track racing, so close to the metro area. You can imagine the reaction of today's residents to the noise from a place like that. Today Minnesota Dragways exists only in memories and photographs. There are plenty of the latter on the Internet, along with the wistful comments of racers, spectators, and track workers who miss the things that went on in a less populated suburbia.



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District #3: Orville Lindquist
District #4: Lotus Hubbard
District #5: Kate Morphey
District #6: Judy Hanna
District #7: Bart Ward
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At Large C: Tom Ward
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At-Large E: William Erhart
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At-Large G: Catherine Vesley
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Executive Director: Todd Mahon
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Admin. Assistant: Sara Given
Volunteer Coordinator: Kim Bauer
Collections Manager:
Marilyn Anderson
Office Staff: Gail Dahl, Carol
Dordan, Don Johnson
Janitorial: Sandra Thorsen

The Anoka County Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions to ACHS are tax-deductible within the allowable limits of the law.

Story From the President...

By Al Pearson

Hello everyone, it looks like winter is here for sure. The snow and icy roads remind me of one of my first jobs in the mid 50s. I went to work for the Minnesota Highway Department and that involved doing everything associated with road maintenance. One of my jobs was working at the truck weigh station in Ramsey, a half mile west of our farm. Another worker and I would also assist a Highway Patrol officer with weighting and inspecting trucks traveling on U.S. Hwy 10. Mostly, I worked outside checking signal lights, stop lights, mud flaps, clearance lights, and proper gross weight stenciled on trucks. The gross weight had to match what the truck was licensed for. Occasionally I would run the weight scale myself. A truck would pull on the scale and I would weigh each axel.

I would sound the buzzer once to have the driver pull ahead to weigh the next axel. I would buzz two times to signal them to leave if the weight was legal.

At that time the weigh station was open 24 hours a day in the spring from March to the end of May. We closed at midnight on

Friday and opened at midnight on Sunday night. I usually worked the graveyard shift, midnight to 8:00 a.m. Sometimes an illegal truck would try to sneak by; turning out their lights to try to coast through. Now they were in real trouble. Another trick was to wait at the Gopher Truck Stop, west of Anoka and East of the Station #3 Daytonport Scale, until 12:00 midnight or 8:00 a.m. during the busy shift change. They thought they could get by without being noticed. If we had to chase them down, they were in big trouble.

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Letter From the Director...

By Todd Mahon

History is very much the study of change over time. Changes have been happening with the Anoka County Historical Society in recent months. In September, we learned that Elaine Koehn, our Volunteer Coordinator, and Caitlin Frey, our Office Administrator would be moving on from the Historical Society. Elaine decided to retire and Caitlin was offered a full-time position with the American Swedish Institute. It would be an understatement to say I was anxious over the changes. Both women are invaluable to us and have helped us move forward in our mission. They played an instrumental part in achieving it. Despite our sadness regarding their departure, we are excited about the two new staff members that will be taking their duties.

Kim Bauer joined our staff in November as our new Volunteer Coordinator. She trained with Elaine through mid-December 2013. Kim comes to us after working with Ramsey County Parks and Recreation as a Volunteer Coordinator for Tamarack Nature Center. She also has worked for the Minnesota Historical Society and the Science Museum of Minnesota. She is warm and enthusiastic, and she has already made a terrific impression on our volunteer crew.

Sara Given begins the duties of our Office Administrator on December 31, 2013. She is a familiar face to many of our volunteers because Sara has been a volunteer with ACHS for a few years as one of our Ghost Tour docents. She has also created children's programming for us and helped out at special events. I can't wait to see what happens next as Sara and Kim share their experience and education with us.

The Story of an Artifact

EDWARD CUTTER Footlocker from "The Great War" (WWI)



By Vickie Wendel, Program Manager
Ned, as he was called, was born in Anoka, the son of O.L. and Mary Cutter. He attended the University Law School and graduated with honors. Ned went into the newspaper business for a while in Thief River Falls until his partner and brother, Ross, died. That was when Ned came back to Anoka to be close to his family. He took a position in the law offices of W. A. Blanchard in Anoka, but WWI drew the U.S. into the fight. Ned, already a lieutenant in the Minnesota National Guard, asked for active duty with the aero squadron. Planes were a very new thing in warfare and were, according to the *Anoka Union*, "that branch of the service which accepts only the keenest and best of the army."

After completing his "aero training," Ned was allowed a leave to visit his family in Anoka before he sailed for Europe. It was the last time they would see Ned.

He was assigned to the 90th Aero Squadron of the American

Expeditionary Force. The squadron's first aircraft were the Sopwith TF-1 ground attack aircraft, though by the time Ned was with them, they had upgraded to SPAD Xis and Breguet BR-14 observation aircraft.

A letter from Ned's commanding officer told the family details of his death.

It was October 21, 1918. The day was an important one in the Verdun offensive.... We received an urgent message from the Corps Commander requesting that a plane be sent over the German lines to ascertain the enemy's power of launching a counter attack. Lt. Cutter and his pilot... were next on the alert list and in spite of the unfavorable weather, were eager to go. The sky was full of low lying clouds with open spaces between them, a condition which favors surprise attacks by enemy planes and machine gun fire from the ground. They left our airdrome (then at Souilly) at about 10:00. When they had failed to return at 12:00, we made inquiries of all balloon and ground units that could be reached by telephone and learned that an allied plane had been seen to fall at about 11:15, in the sector over which they had been operating, within German lines.

Now the great war seems to be drawing to a glorious close,

we of the 90th feel that no single office has contributed more of unselfish devotion to duty in waging it than your son and our comrade, Lieut. Cutter, and we are proud of his death as we have been of his life with us.

For the Squadron and for myself, I send you the warmest sympathy in your great loss, and am believe me,

*Ever sincerely yours,
Norris E. Pierson,
1st Lt. A. S. U.S.A.
Commanding Squadron*

It wasn't until a few days later that the lines moved enough to allow the allies to search the area where the plane went down. They found the wrecked plane beside two newly dug graves. The bodies were exhumed and identified before they were transported to the American Cemetery at Souilly-sur-Meuse. Edward was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. The award citation read:

Presented to Edward B. Cutter, First Lieutenant (Air Service), U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Canuel, France, October 21, 1918. Responding to an urgent request for a plane to penetrate the enemy line to ascertain whether or not the enemy was preparing a counterattack, Lieutenant Cutter immediately volunteered for the mission. Obligated to fly at a very low altitude on account of the unfavorable weather conditions he was under terrific fire of the enemy at all times, by skillful dodging he managed to cross the enemy lines. His plane was seen to suddenly lurch and crash a short distance to the ground, both he and his brother observer being killed.

General Orders No. 36 W. D. , 1919



Lt. Cutter's Foot Locker

After his death in the plane crash, Lt. Cutter's personal belongings were shipped home to Anoka in his footlocker. Since the American Legion Post in Anoka was named in his honor, it is believed Mrs. Cutter gave the footlocker to the Anoka Legion. The Post kept the locker for many years, but

concern for its preservation prompted the Post to donate Cutter's footlocker to ACHS in 2005. Note the "Pair-o'-Dice" painted on the footlocker. It was their squadron emblem. Its first commander, 1st Lt. William G. Schauffler, designed the 90th's Pair o' Dice emblem displaying natural sevens during the St. Mihiel campaign. In later years, the Air Force forbid games of chance as unit emblems, however, since the 90th's emblem was designed long before that rule, the pair-o-dice emblem remained.



Dear Volunteers

Farewell Elaine Koehn

By Kim Bauer, Volunteer Coordinator

Greetings Volunteers,

I want to start by acknowledging that Elaine Koehn was a pleasure to work with during my transition into the role of Volunteer Coordinator for the Anoka County Historical Society. I felt immediately attached to her good company and we united in discussion about the vision and future of the Volunteer Program. As the weeks of her departure grew near, I reflected on how lucky I was to meet this charismatic 'gal pal'. Elaine is invaluable and although I've been coined to be "her replacement," we all know that replacing Elaine is impossible. However, I will do my best to follow in her footsteps to continue to grow the Legacy that you've built together.

If others were to describe me they would probably tell you that I'm tall (I have to lower the chair significantly so that my legs can fit under the desk), motivated to learn and achieve goals (I love making lists and checking them off), and full of enthusiasm.

As Elaine dances into retirement (for the second time), feel assured that this is not goodbye. You will see her during her continuation with the Historical Society as a volunteer. I look forward to meeting everyone and I am eager to listen, learn, and gain your friendship. Cheers to 2014 and the next chapter for ACHS.



The New Volunteer Coordinator Kim Bauer: Now and Then

Started her career as the big blue shark mascot 'Sharky' that walks around the Mall of America.

Volunteers taking care of live owls on the weekend.

Landed a degree in American Indian Studies and Professional Communications.

Was a wildland firefighter, but thought the gig was too hot, so took up an education role teaching about species survival, conservation, and Minnesota's history instead.

Likes dressing up in costumes.

Lives in South Minneapolis across the highway from Minnehaha Falls.

Grew up in Washington County.

Wanted a tree house during childhood and tried to build one by nailing one board to a tree... Still wants a tree house.

Favorite Minnesota tradition: Collecting sap in the sugar bush to make yummy maple syrup!



2013 Holiday Ornament from Spring Lake Park

It is always great fun to see what our communities come up with for their ornament on the County Tree in the ACHS lobby each year. This year Spring Lake Park City's Mayor Cindy Hansen, and former Councilmember Barbara Carlson, presented ACHS with two giant hand-painted glass balls on December 3. One of the ornaments was designed from a child's perspective of all things Spring Lake Park, including illustrations of a snowman on ice skates and Santa with a sack full of toys. The other bulb is splashed with holiday cheer including: poinsettias, cardinals, and swirling red ribbons. Spring Lake Park was a neighborhood before it was incorporated as a village in 1953. It became a city in 1977. There are only three communities left to place ornaments on the tree before every city and township in the county are represented with their special ornament. All the county communities have been on the tree with individual bows since the project started. Now there are only three remaining bows for the cities of Oak Grove, Circle Pines, and Columbus to replace with ornaments.

ACHS Wish List

Super 8 mm Projector

Ski jacket or Snowmobile jacket that has wear and tare. Story of the item's life (what locations did it visit? what it was used for?) required.

Ink jet printer that has the ability to print quality photos.

Anoka State Hospital Project Looking for Interview Subjects



ACHS is documenting the human history of the Anoka State Hospital, now known as the Anoka Metro Regional Treatment Center. If you or someone you know has worked at this facility, participated in a program offered by it, or had another connection to its time as a state hospital, either past or present, we'd like to hear from you. There are no right or wrong answers and no need to feel intimidated about these interviews. We are only asking for your experiences and the opportunity to record them. If you are or know someone with connections to the Anoka State Hospital, either now or many years past, please call Todd Ma-

hon at 763-421-0600.

Up To Date



Venture to the Toyland Exhibit

The Anoka County Historical Society had the grand opening of its Toyland exhibit on December 3, 2013. Toyland features toys from the ACHS collection dating back from the 19th century. You are bound to see a toy you recognize among other unknown curiosities. Bring your children or grandchildren, because this exhibit also features two games you can play! The Toyland exhibit will be on display at the ACHS building through early spring.

Board of Directors Elections Coming Soon

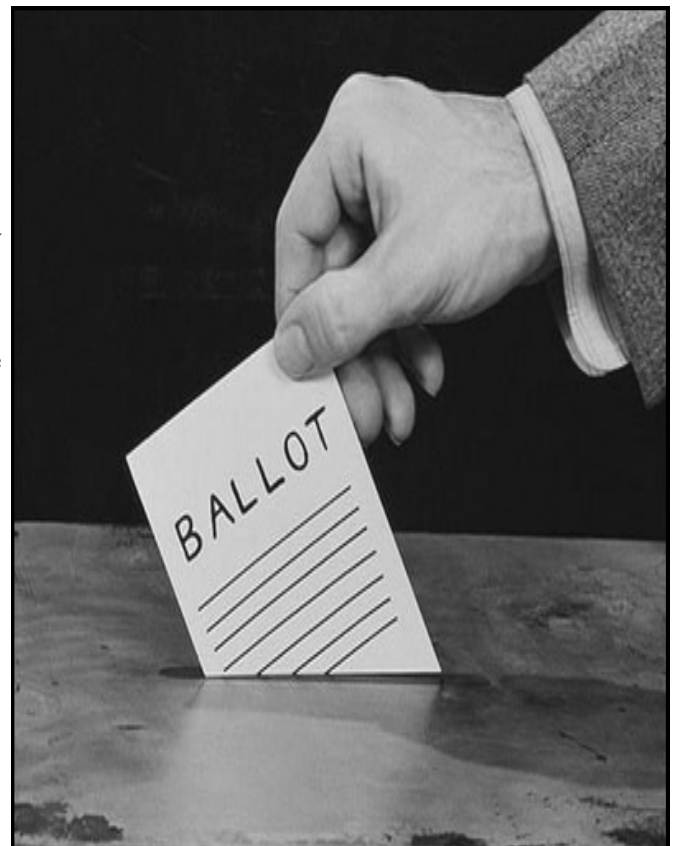
In February of 2014, the Historical Society will send out ballots to its membership for election to our board of directors. Five of our fifteen board positions will be open, as well as the election of a new Vice President.

The ACHS board is made up of fifteen members, seven representing the Anoka County Commissioner districts, and eight At-Large positions. To be eligible for election, a candidate must be a dues paying member of the Historical Society for 30 days prior to the annual meeting in March, and be a resident of the district they are representing. At-large members do not have a residency requirement.

The Vice President is also elected by the membership and must be a member of the board of directors at the time of the election.

This year's election will include the board positions representing commissioner districts three (Commissioner Robyn West), district four (Commissioner Jim Kordiak), as well as three At-Large positions. Board member Dan Frank, an At-Large representative, has decided not to run for a fourth term. All other positions are scheduled to have incumbent board members running in them.

If you are interested in submitting your name for the election, contact Todd Mahon, Executive Director, at 763-421-0600.



Contributions & New Members – Thank You

All lists are current to December 13, 2013



Donations

Robert Akin II
Julian Andersen
LaVerne Anderson
Betty Besser
Darlene Caswell
Barbara and Eugene Case
Sandra Connor
Karen Davis
Betty Erickson
Mark and Susan Freeburg
John and Alice Ganter
Judy Hanna
John and Sue Harwood
David Hoagland
Floyd Holmes
Rebecca Loader
John and Lillian Meyer
Beverly Olson
Arthur Reese
Lynne and Terry Rickert
Virginia Ridge
Leslie Ross

Terry Scott
Jean Seaborg
Mary Sell
Ann Steen
Tom Sullivan
Barb Thurston
Jill Weaver
Ron and Vickie Wendel

Artifact Donors

Bruce Andersohn
City of Spring Lake Park
Coon Rapids VFW
Doris F. Johnson
Mary Hillstrom
Michael Spartz
Milton Peters
Nowthen Alliance Church
Pat Schwappach
Zac Wagner

Employee Match

Ameriprise Financial/Dan Frank

New Members

Karen Davis
Jerry & Elizabeth Dhennin
Yvonne Gowell
Marilyn Martin
Janet Meyer
Dawn Mezzenga
Robin Miller
Jean Reynolds



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

William Hanna, member and husband of board member Judy Hanna.
William passed away in November.

Beatrice Hoppenrath, member since 2001.
She lived in Wenatchee, WA and passed away in November.

Anoka County Historical Society
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Anoka, MN 55303
(763) 421-0600

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Coming Events

Thursday, January 2, 7:00 p.m.

Stephen Osman, Fort Snelling and the Civil War

Location: Anoka County History Center and Library. All of Minnesota's Civil War soldiers spent time at Fort Snelling, as did Confederate prisoners and Dakota Indian families. Learn their stories from 1860s letters, diaries and newspaper accounts. Past site manager of Fort Snelling, Stephen Osman will share his extensive knowledge about the unique Minnesota Civil War connection. This program is part of the ACHS Civil War Lecture Series.

Saturday, January 11, 2:00 p.m.

The History of Circle Pines and Lexington

Location: Circle Pines City Hall. A one hour program allowing attendees to relive local history by listening to the stories of Circle Pines' and the surrounding areas past and seeing artifacts that were used in every day life. Learn about the history of Circle Pines and Lexington, as well as the eastern area of Blaine and parts of Centerville. A slide show of photographs from the past takes guests on a visual tour through the area. Bring your stories from growing up in Circle Pines, this is backyard history at its best!

Thursday, February 6, 7:00 p.m.

Doug Ohman and Civil War Monuments

Location: Chomonix Golf Course Clubhouse, Lino Lakes. Many people know Doug Ohman from his work in photographing Minnesota's court houses, schools, barns, and churches. His current project is Civil War monuments and this talk will take participants on a visual journey through courthouse lawns, libraries, city parks, and cemeteries in search of Minnesota's memorials to the men who served in the Civil War. This program is part of the ACHS Civil War Lecture Series.

Saturday, February 8, 2:00 p.m.

Safe For Democracy

Location: Anoka County Northtown Library. Wartime rationing, travel restrictions, censorship, ethnic discrimination, forced registration and surrender of personal property. All of these sound ominously un-American, but were accepted as a part of daily life right here in Anoka County during what would become known as the Great War, or WWI. 2014 marks the centennial of that conflict that cost the world nearly 117 million lives with a goal of making the world "Safe For Democracy." Find out more about how it changed life right here at home in this lively slide presentation featuring stories and photographs from our own home county.

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Violet Ray Machine

By Vickie Wendel, Program Manager

This device was a high frequency generator that claimed to “counteract the causes” of illnesses by use of the “violet ray” the generator produced. It is believed Minnie Foster Goodrich purchased this machine in the 1920s. Minnie was born in Anoka County in 1865 and lived in the area her entire life, most of it in what was then called Anoka Township, today’s Coon Rapids. Family members remember her loaning the Violet Ray machine to friends and neighbors in the 1930s.

According to the manual, “All human ailments...can be traced to faulty circulation and impure blood.” It stated that when activity was low, the body’s circulation decreased, allowing impurities to collect in the “stagnant” blood. Preventing richly nourished blood from reaching all parts of the body. The Violet Ray machine promised to bring to “every home, at a reasonable price, a method whereby every vital process can be quickened and the blood made to course through the body with renewed vigor.” The treatment was so gentle and safe that it could be applied to even the most tender nerve, muscle, or organ. The manual even claimed health benefits for babies since the treatment was so gentle.

The device worked by producing heat and vibration in a glass encased “electrode” held against the skin. The skin may “become slightly reddened by the blood that is sent in response to the stimulation.” The rays were said to work, depending on how they were applied, as a sedative, as a stimulant and tonic, as an internal anti-septic, for beauty, dandruff, headaches, rheumatism, “Brain Fog”, and many other ailments. At least that was what the later versions of the devices claimed. The original devices were legitimate medical tools for treating minor pain and some skin conditions and used electricity based on Tesla Coils.

Tesla Coils were invented by Nikola Tesla in 1891. These coils have the ability to step up electrical current to create a very powerful electrical field. The heat produced by controlled discharges of this energy was considered beneficial in some treatments, just as applying a heat pack is today. These devices were huge machines that required electrical power so their use was limited to doctor’s offices. When the portable machines were developed, the idea was that they were small enough to take to a patient’s home—this is the era of house calls—and run off either AC or DC current. That, however, was before the wild wave of “quack medicine” that rushed through America in the early years of the 1900s. As many as 30 companies began manufacturing some type of home use violet ray machine with a frightening array of attachments, claiming to provide relief for everything from impotence to hay fever. It could even remove wrinkles in the skin!

The FDA got involved in the late 1940s when it filed a series of lawsuits against the manufacturers of these machines. The suit said the claims made by the operator manuals of the violet ray machines were untrue and in some cases, hazardous since proper instruction was not provided for using the machine in sensitive treatments such as in the ear, throat, or eye. The FDA won since the medical benefits could not be proven and violet ray machines not in private hands were ordered destroyed.

While it is great fun to look back with laughter at these questionable medical devices, take time to consider what people of the future will think of our state-of-the-art medical devices. It’s a fair bet they will be laughing at some of our techniques and tools as well.

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All of this, was 60 years ago.

Letter From the Director: The Need To Diversify

By Todd Mahon

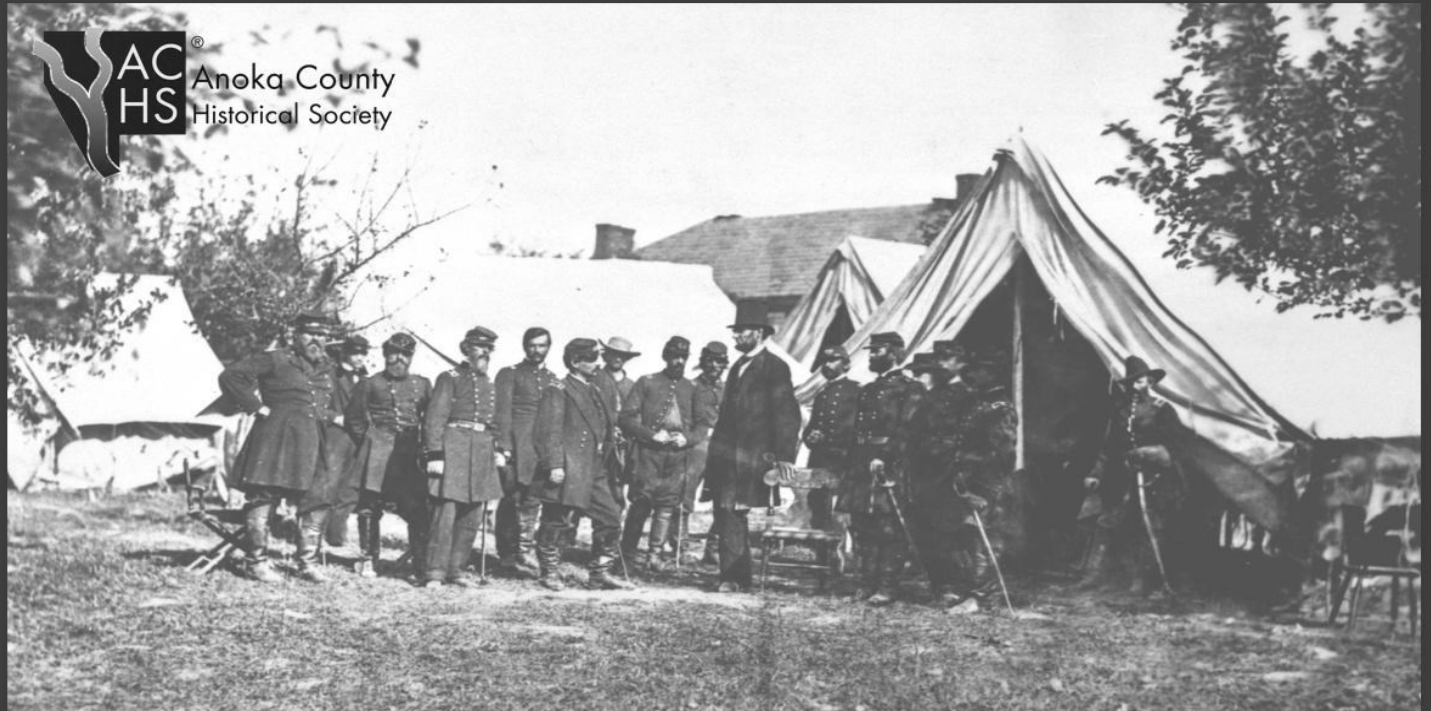


The Anoka County Historical Society is financially supported in several ways. We receive grants for specific projects, find business sponsorships for events and receive membership dues. Additional contributions come from individual members and supporters. However, there is no denying that the vast majority of our financial support comes from Anoka County.

Depending on the given year, the funds received from the County make up between 60-70% of our total income. In my eight years with the Historical Society the County support has been reliable and very much needed during these uncertain economic times. The Historical Society is trying to find additional revenue streams to address this percentage and increase our revenues in other areas. For example, by asking for donations from our current supporters and members more often we can increase revenue through individual donations and membership dues. We are going to try to find new members and friends, as well as try to reconnect with old ones too.

ACHS is a terrific organization that has been recognized nationally and statewide for our terrific programs and the dedication toward our mission. A lot of you out there support our mission to preserve and share Anoka County history and we need to do a better job in expressing our needs to strengthen our sustainability. Expect to see more requests in future and we thank you for your continued support.

If you have any questions or suggestions about this, please feel free to contact me at 763-721-0600 or todd@ac-hs.org.



The Battle of Antietam

The Bloodiest Single Day Battle in American History

Sunday, March 30 at noon

Anoka County Historical Society's Annual Meeting
Murzyn Hall, 530 Mill Street, Columbia Heights

\$20
(\$15 for members)
Includes
lunch

Join the Anoka County Historical Society and author John Cox for a riveting discussion about the Battle of Antietam. The event includes a catered lunch, and a *brief* membership meeting. The event is open to the public, ACHS members receive a discount. Visit AnokaCountyHistory.org or call 763-421-0600 for more information.



Dear Volunteers

Doing More, with Less

By Kim Bauer, Volunteer Coordinator

Spring-a-ling-aling! The birds are on their way back and the trees are waking up to greet them. The green season also means gearing up ACHS's volunteer engine to tackle the exciting events and tours in 2014. This year National Volunteer Appreciation week is April 6-12. It celebrates the collective volunteer service that makes a difference in our nation's communities.

Looking back to 2013, the ACHS volunteers contributed 6,185 hours among 139 active volunteers (363 more hours than 2012). I am extremely impressed. I have been a traveler of institutions and can confidently report that the ACHS

volunteer program is not only rich in regards to its volunteer audience with their unique skills and knowledge, but also because the program lends itself as a role model for other organizations. Influences like the state of the economy and the need for institutions to operate under lower organizational budgets are putting negative pressures on non-profit and government agencies. These stressors are forcing organizations to seek innovative ways to maintain public services through volunteer support. This support allow these organizations to do more with less, but many organizations struggle with sustaining volunteers. The ACHS volunteer program is a great example of how it can be done. I am proud to acknowledge that ACHS has over 40 volunteers that have been here for 10 + years! It would be great to see you at the recognition event held this spring in your honor. Look for official invitations in the mail. Thank you for your loyalty, contributions, and the impact you make in the community. Above all, thank you for helping ensure the legacy of the ACHS mission lives on.

Estelita Rocha *Todd S. Mah* *Karlyn Anderson*
Gail Dell *Julie Wundel*
Kim Bauer *Dede Johnson* *ABX Green*

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS FROM ALL OF US

Save the Date: Annual Volunteer Recognition Celebration
Sunday April 27, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Location: Anoka City Hall



Volunteer Opportunity

Knitters Needed

Time Commitment: Flexible to fit your schedule until completed.

Location: Your home or anywhere that puts you in a knitting mood.

Training & Requirements : Volunteers with knitting skills that have the ability to read patterns. Written directions and materials provided.

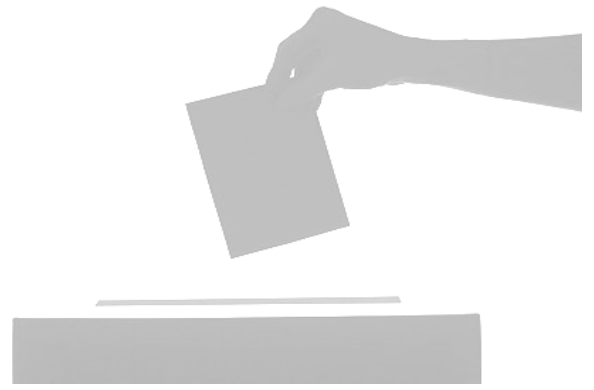
Knit your bit for ACHS. ACHS needs a few items knitted to add to our WW1 raveling box. Traveling boxes venture out in to the community with our programming team. These boxes include props and materials needed to educate the community about a topic from Anoka County history. Our WW1 box needs a few more small items: socks, wristlets, and mitt's (WW1 pattern provided) so that we have a healthy supply of examples to share with an audience. Support our troops by helping this community education effort!

Place Your Ballot

ACHS Board of Directors Election

By Todd Mahon

Be sure to watch your mailbox for ballots for the Anoka County Historical Society's board of directors. The fifteen person board, elected by ACHS members, are responsible for the oversight of the organization. This year, five board positions are up for election, two district representatives and three at-large representatives. In addition to the five board positions, members will also be responsible for electing a new vice president for the board.



Board Candidates

Vice President: Harvey Greenberg

Harvey Greenberg has lived in Nowthen since 1938 when he moved there as a child. That same year his parents opened Greenberg Implement, which became a fixture in Nowthen for over 75 years. He has previously served on the Burns Township Planning and Zoning Committee, the Elk River School District Board of Education, and has been an elder board member with the Nowthen Christian and Missionary Alliance Church. He joined the Historical Society board in 2012.

Commissioner District 3: Orville Lindquist

Orville Lindquist has worked for the YMCA for over twenty years. Since 1999 he has been a program executive for the Y's Youth in Government program, though he first became involved with the program as a participant in the eighth grade. In addition to serving on the ACHS board of directors, he also serves as the president of the Blaine Historical Society. He was first elected to the ACHS board in 2011. If re-elected he would like to help bring the Historical Society and its board through a strategic planning process.

Commissioner District 4: Lotus Hubbard

Lotus Sundqvist Hubbard is a third generation Anoka County Resident. She lives in Columbia Heights in the home her parents built in 1953. She worked at the Columbia Heights Public Library throughout high school and college and upon graduation from the U of M started working for the "phone company," and has been there for 37 years. She has previously served on the Parish Council as Secretary and Parish Council President at the Church of St. Philip in North Minneapolis. She was appointed to the ACHS board in 2012. If elected, she will continue to be a strong supporter of sharing and preserving the stories and the history of Columbia Heights.

At-Large: Dennis Berg, Paul Pierce, Tom Ward

Dennis Berg has lived in Anoka County for over fifty years. After serving in the U.S. Army during Vietnam, he returned home and soon began his career in public service. He was elected to the Burns Township Board of Supervisors in 1973 and remained for eighteen years, including fourteen as board chair. He was elected to the Anoka County Board of Commissioners in 1991 and served until the end of 2010. During his time on the County Board he served as the liaison to the Historical Society and as board chair at different points. He is also active with the Vietnam Veterans of America and the Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Ramsey.

Paul Pierce is a lifelong resident of Anoka and his family first came to the county when his great great grandfather Calvin Pierce settled in Oak Grove. He is the owner of the former Kline Sanitarium in Anoka, which is a National Register of Historic Places property. He has been a member of the Society since 1980, was first elected to the Historical Society board in 1997 and has served in multiple positions over that time, including multiple turns as president. He is active with the Finance, Development, and Special Events Committees.

Tom Ward has served on the Historical Society board since 2005. For many years he was in auto sales, before selling stocks and bonds. He retired in 2001. He is active on the Special Events Committee, which plans the annual fundraising event, and formed the Anoka County Music and Arts Committee which helped gather information for a series of exhibitions on music history in the county. For the past four years he has written columns about local history, many of them autobiographical, for the ABC Newspapers. He has enjoyed his time with the board and looks forward to continuing to serve the organization.

Welcome Aboard



Meet Sara Given

The Anoka County Historical Society welcome's Sara Given as its new Administrator.



Sara has been supporting ACHS programming, events and leading ghost tours as a volunteer since 2011. Sara has already been updating and streamlining our daily

operations to make them more effective. Her quirky personality and organization skills are a great addition to our team. We interviewed Sara so you can get to know her more.

What are you looking forward to while working with ACHS in 2014?

I am looking forward to learning all aspects of ACHS as the year progresses and exploration! Kim and I have been

coming across a lot of curiosities from the museum collection. I am also looking forward to sunshine because my last work office was a cave.

Can you tell us a little history about yourself? I grew up in the city of Anoka and went to Anoka High School. After graduating I attended Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota. As a student, I spent my afternoons making costumes for theater and dance productions and evenings in music rehearsals. I obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in history with a minor in music. I am living in Anoka again and previously to working for ACHS, was employed by Crate and Barrel in Edina. It's nice to be close to home again.

What are you famous for?

Throw-in-the-pot cooking.

Do you have any hobbies or specialties? I have a vintage pattern collection that dates back to the early 1900s. I like creating garments and accessories from the collection to wear. You are likely to see me wearing fashion from another era. I also like watching black and white movies from the past, like *Tammy and the Bachelor* or *The Major and the Minor*.

Tell us about a memorable experience you had while volunteering for ACHS. The first Ghost Tour I delivered, one of the group members mentioned that they were from Alexandria, Minnesota where my mother grew. The woman knew my Aunt Cathy and I found out they play Bunko every Thursday together. What are the odds?

Contributions & New Members – Thank You

All lists are current to February 6, 2014

Donations

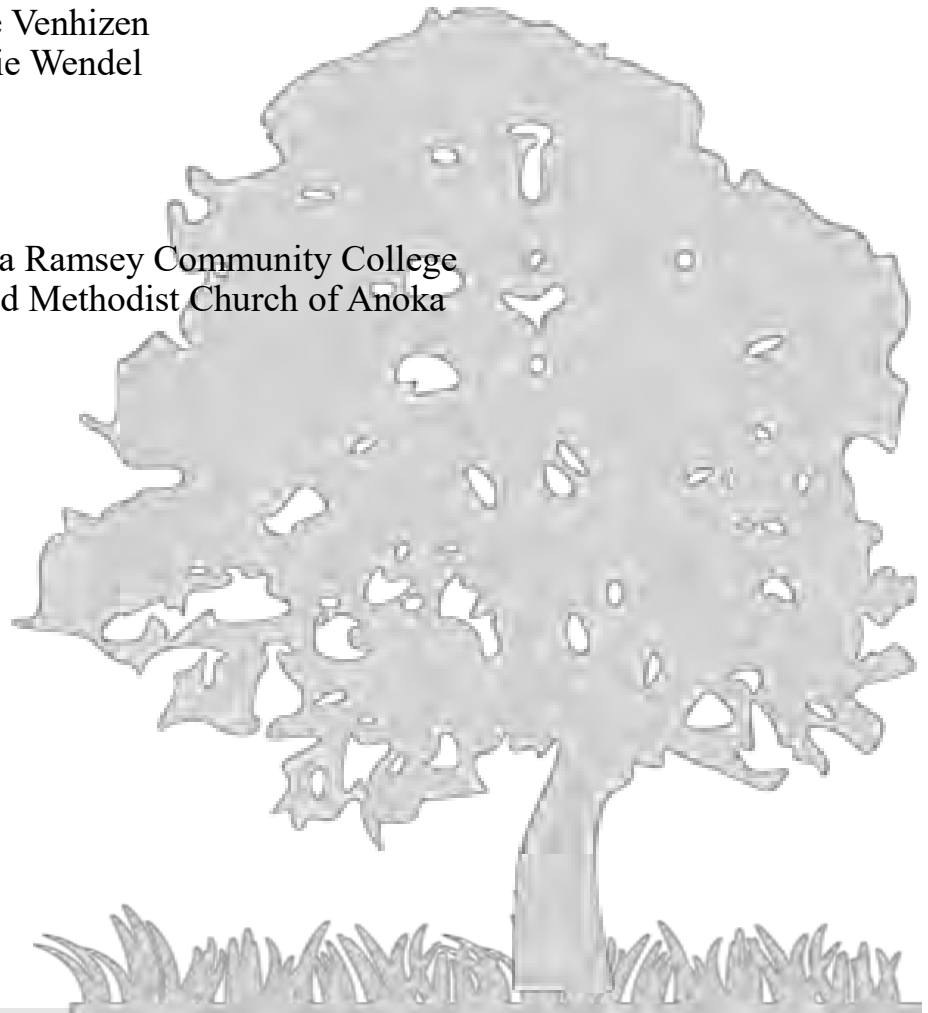
Jan Anderson
Linda Bunney
Barb & Gene Case
Mary & Michael Clark
David & Winnifred Conger
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Diann Hendrickson
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Artifact Donors

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Powell Joan
Jill Smith

Anoka Ramsey Community College
United Methodist Church of Anoka



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

Margaret Livgard

Mother in law of board member Bill Nelson and long time contributor.

New Members

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

NON PROFIT ORG.
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Coming Events

Thursday, March 6, 7:00 p.m.

Civil War Women

Location: Chomonix Golf Course Clubhouse, Lino Lakes. The war between the States may have been fought by great armies of men, but women filled many vital roles in society and even in the military. Women such as Clara Barton and Dorothea Dix immediately come to mind, but what about Minnesota's women? This program highlights the incredible stories of Minnesota women who protected their homes, supported their soldiers, served the army in many different ways, and kept the home fires burning throughout the four years of the Civil War. Their stories are long overlooked and bring a new perspective to their history of American's most bloody war. This program is part of the ACHS Civil War series.

Saturday, March 22, 2:00 p.m.

A Logger's Life

Location: Johnsville Library, Blaine. Would you want to be a logger in Anoka, circa 1913? Join us for this interactive program and find out what life would have like in a logging camp. Learn about the job duties, hours and wages, as well as daily life of Anoka loggers and their families. After learning the basics, put your new skills to work with a logging inspired craft. Program open to all ages, craft limited to 30 people.

Thursday, April 3, 7:00 p.m.

Every Man Did His Duty: The 1st Minnesota Infantry

Location: Anoka County History Center and Library, Anoka. All The experiences of more than 100 men enlisted with the First Regiment of Minnesota Volunteer Infantry are captured in Wayne D. Jorgenson's new book, *Every Man Did His Duty*. Jorgenson shares the life stories of these men, whose regiment was the first volunteered to President Lincoln after Fort Sumter's fall during the Civil War. Included in the book are the stories of Aaron Greenwald and Josiah King, both with legitimate claims as the first man to volunteer for the Union. This program is part of the ACHS Civil War series.

Saturday, April 12 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Civil War Camp and Ladies Aid Society

Location: Rum River Library, Anoka. There are always two fronts in any war; the battle front and the home front. Civil War re-enactors will recreate the life of a soldier away at camp, while the ladies hold an Aid Society meeting back home. Visitors are encouraged to talk with the ladies and soldiers to learn more about the support efforts on both fronts.



SERVING:

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



The Grand Army in Linwood

By Vickie Wendel, Program Manager

The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was a veteran’s organization where membership was limited to men who had served in the Union Army during the Civil War. It first organized in 1866, it was a nationwide organization with leadership at the national, state and locals levels. Leadership at the state level were called Departments and they were called Posts at the local level. Anoka County had two posts: the J.S. Cady Post #2 in Anoka and the G.W. Haskell Post #110 in Linwood.

Little is known about the GAR Post in Linwood, because none of its records have been found. Brief mentions in the newspapers and scattered memories are all that remain. The Post was established in 1888 on land owned by John Grant. He “leased” the land to the GAR, but there are no recollections of the GAR ever paying anything for that lease. The hall the men built stood on what is known today as Viking Blvd. across from the west bank of Linwood Lake.

When the GAR Hall was built and organized, they appointed a board of trustees. These men were Sanford Broadbent, Edward Pratt, R.V. Swarthout, and G.S. Sherman. John Grant was deeply involved in the GAR Hall as a veteran as well as the owner of the land. The men chose *G. W. Haskell* as the name of their Post and were assigned the number #110. It is unknown why the Linwood GAR Post was named for George Haskell. He may have been an early

proponent of starting a GAR post in Linwood; perhaps he was one of the first veterans in the area to die or it could have been that he simply was well known in the area.

Haskell served in the 7th Maine Infantry for three years, was discharged and returned to Maine before coming to Minnesota in 1866. In 1875, he bought a farm in Linwood and was known as one of the hardest working men in the county. He also had a saw mill and did “extensive business” with it. George married Annie in 1875 and the couple went on to have three children.

George was elected to the Anoka County Board of Commissioners in the fall of 1883 and took his place on the board in January of 1884. It was a short term of service for, at just 42 years old, George died July 11, 1884.

Nellie Grant’s memories of the GAR Hall were that of a little girl, but she shared what she remembered in an interview in 1976. She recalled that the GAR Hall was decorated with pictures of generals and a framed picture of Andersonville Prison. There was a kitchen in the back of the hall that had a balcony over it and a well for water outside the back door. The building was heated with a big wood burning stove and wood burning cook continued stove in the kitchen. All the wood was donated by members and friends of the GAR. The Post did not own the property under the Hall, so

Continued on page 5

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

Anoka County History Center & Library

2135 Third Avenue North
Anoka, MN 55303
(763) 421-0600
Fax (763) 323-0218
E-mail: achs@ac-hs.org
AnokaCountyHistory.org

History Center Hours

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

Board of Directors

District 1: Al Pearson
District 2: Bill Nelson
District 3: Orville Lindquist
District 4: Lotus Hubbard
District 5: Kate Morphew
District 6: Judy Hanna
District 7: Bart Ward
At-Large A: Lori Yager (Treasurer)
At-Large B: Dennis Berg
At-Large C: Tom Ward
At-Large D: Dick Lang
At-Large E: Bill Erhart (President)
At-Large F: Paul Pierce (Secretary)
At-Large G: Catherine Vesley
At-Large H: Harvey Greenberg
(Vice President)
County Commissioner Liaison:
Jim Kordiak

Staff

Todd Mahon (Executive Director)
Vickie Wendel (Program Manager)
Sara Given (Admin. Assistant)
Kim Bauer (Volunteer Coordinator)
Marilyn Anderson
(Collections Manager)
Gail Dahl (Office Staff)
Carol Dordan (Office Staff)
Don Johnson (Office Staff)
Sandra Thorsen (Janitorial)

The Anoka County Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions to ACHS are tax-deductible within the allowable limits of the law.

From the President...

Antique Stores in Downtown Anoka

By William Erhart

The abundance of antique stores in downtown Anoka has made it a destination for antique shoppers. We did some research on the longest operating antique stores here.

The oldest antique store in Anoka is **Antiques on Main** located at 212 East Main Street. The shop was started in 1992 by Molly Caine, her daughter, Nancy Caine, and Nancy's sister-in-law, Mary Caine. The three women had been selling antiques in a Blaine store, which closed. They decided to open their antique shop in the 212 East Main Street location in Anoka. The Caine family had owned that 212 Main building for over 100 years. The building itself was constructed in 1890 and had been vacant for several years before the women opened their shop in 1992. The Antiques on Main shop has grown and thrived for 22 years, with over 50 vendors and approximately 5000 square feet of space in the two-story building. Their vendors display a wide variety of antiques, with something of interest to everyone.

The antiques business in Anoka is helped by easy access to US Hwy. 10, the number of antique shops here within easy walking distance of each other, as well as plenty of restaurants and other shops downtown for shoppers to visit.

The other antique stores with long histories in downtown Anoka are listed below:

Amore Antiques – opened 1994, at 2008 2nd Avenue North
The Artique (“Big White House”) – opened 1997, now at 1900 3rd Ave. North
Yours, Mine and Ours – opened 1997, at 2014 Second Avenue North
Toy Boy Collectibles – opened 1997, at 2006 Second Avenue North
Peggy's Front Porch – opened 2007, at 216 East Main Street

From the Director...

A Board of Directors Defines an Organization

By Todd Mahon



Nonprofit organizations are a pretty wonderful thing, and while they are not completely unique to the United States, we certainly have the vast majority of them. They are a great combination of America's spirit of volunteerism and grass roots organizing.

The Anoka County Historical Society, like all other not-for-profit organizations, is lead by a board of directors. Our board is made up of fifteen members from the community that feel strongly about our mission to preserve and share Anoka County's history—they provide leadership and donate their personal time and unique professional and personal skills.

These board members are elected by the members of the Historical Society to serve a three year term. Each year, five board positions are open for election. The results of the most recent election were announced at our annual meeting on March 30, 2014. Lotus Hubbard, Orville Lindquist, Paul Pierce, and Tom Ward were all re-elected to the board and Dennis Berg was newly elected after Dan Frank finished his third term. For nine years, Dan has been a reliable supporter of the Historical Society, both financially and with his time. We're excited to welcome Dennis, who is a former Anoka County commissioner and a longtime supporter in his own right.

In addition, a new vice president, Harvey Greenberg, was elected by the membership. The meeting also marked the end of Al Pearson's term as president. Bill Erhart rotates into that position after serving as vice president, but Al will remain on the board. It was a real treat working with Al over the last few years. I can't think of many people more gracious in their support of our mission. Bill's initiative has already been impressive and I am certain he will keep us moving forward and advance the organization over his term. We are in good hands. Our board members are a direct link to the community we serve. I am grateful for all of them.

Artifact Conservation



Art Conservation Student is Letting in the Light

By Megan Bender, ACHS Volunteer

Three stained glass windows from the original home of the Anoka Methodist Church arrived at the Historical Society this February. The 150 year old windows are getting cleaned up thanks to volunteer Ali Wysopal, a Fridley native and a graduate of Loyola University in Chicago. After working on the windows for a couple of weeks, Wysopal gave us insight into the world of art conservation.

How did you become interested in art conservation?

I originally went to school for archaeology (the anthropology part of my degree), so I took a lot of classes in handling artifacts, excavating dig sites, and researching. I've also always really liked art and after taking an art history class so I decided to make it my second major. I was trying to decide what to do with my jumble of degrees [B.A. in Art History, B.S. in Anthropology, minor in Studio Arts] and I found the field of art conservation. It combines what I like about archaeology

with all I've learned in art history.

Why were you interested in working on these stained glass windows at ACHS?

I've never worked on such a large sculptural piece before, so that was definitely part of the draw. It also doesn't hurt that these are simply really nice pieces of stained glass.

With these specific stained glass windows, what have you enjoyed working on the

most? What has been the biggest challenge so far?

Seeing them go from their original state to the cleaned version, where you can actually see through the glass panes, gives me a sense of accomplishment. There were some spots prior to cleaning that looked like a different color completely, now you can see a lot more subtlety and detail in the glass colors and textures that weren't apparent with all that dirt. I think the most difficult, and probably obvious struggle, was the crumbling stability of the frames. When lead (what the frames are made of) oxidizes it turns white and flakes, causing it to become very brittle and fragile. This can cause the glass panels to fall out or sections to bend and break.

What would your dream restoration project be?

If I could discover a long lost library and then get to handle and conserve all those books; that would be the dream. Perhaps a bit far-fetched, but I've got my fingers crossed nevertheless.

What are your future plans for pursuing art conservation as a career?

A lot more school. To work as an art conservator you need at least a master's degree and to get into a master's program you need lots of experience (400+ hrs). I've applied to a school in Florence, Italy that offers conservation certificates (so basically you get all those experience hours in an academic setting, which hopefully looks pretty spiffy on a resume) for this coming school year. Hopefully I get in; to be able to work on Italian frescoes for a year would be amazing!



Dear Volunteers

Summer Sizzlers

By Kim Bauer, Volunteer Coordinator

Boy did we earn our summer this year! Time to take out the sunscreen, fire up the grill, and start packing for the cabin. Don't forget to add volunteering with ACHS to your summer bucket list. Offering an array of engaging activities, summer opportunities are the best time to get involved:

- Play a role at Riverfest by portraying a historical figure from our Ghost Tour (if you are into the paranormal, this gig is up your ally!)
- Hang out and host one of the historic homes during our Home and Garden Tour (volunteers get to go on a final walk through of the homes at the end!)
- Chat with the community at the Anoka County Fair in a historic costume (this also scores you free tickets into the fair to go get cheese curds after your shift!)

If being in the spotlight isn't your flavor, consider helping us behind the scenes for preparation to ensure the success of these sizzling events. Until then, wishing you sunny days and firefly evenings.

**Y'ALL COME
BACK NOW,
YA HEAR?**



VOLUNTEER THIS SUMMER

Represent ACHS in the community by signing up to volunteer at these sizzling summer events!

Riverfest, Saturday, July 12

Home & Garden Tour, Sunday, July 13

Anoka County Fair, July 22 - 27



GET INVOLVED

Call 421-0600 or email Kimberly@ac-hs.org

Grand Army of the Republic



Continued from page 1

Linwood GAR post



a big wood burning stove and wood burning cook stove in the kitchen. All the wood was donated by members and friends of the

GAR. The Post did not own the property under the Hall, so there were no taxes to be paid, but the GAR did pay insurance on their building and that was paid with dues from the members. Nellie thought the dues were \$1 a year. The GAR Hall was the place for dances, card parties, school events when the school house was too small, banquets, Sunday school classes, and many other social activities. Musicians sometimes played from the balcony for the dances. One of the biggest celebrations of the year was the Fourth of July. The GAR hall was the scene for picnics, games, and speeches with people from all around attending.

As the Civil War veterans aged, their sons and grandsons became involved. The GAR building with all its contents was given to the Sons of Union Veterans organization. The Grand Army men met in the daytime, an accommodation to their advancing age. Most of the other meetings were held in the evenings. The ladies organization as being the stronger of the groups, especially in the later years. The Ladies Auxiliary of the Grand Army was a very active organization nationally and continued their activities longer than the Grand Army

men. The Ladies Auxiliary was able to continue by accepting the wives, daughters and granddaughters from veterans of other wars, not just the Civil War. After World War I was over, interest in the Grand Army waned. Its members were aged and there were new veterans who were not eligible for membership in the Grand Army. These new veterans began their own organizations and the Grand Army of the Republic faded into memory. At an auction held at the GAR Hall just before Nellie was married in 1917, everything was sold and the G.W. Haskell Post #110 was closed. The land still belonged to the Grant family and the empty building remained there for many years.

At some point, the Grant family donated the GAR Hall building to Anoka County and it was moved to a nearby county park in Linwood. In 1978, an attempt was made to secure funding to restore the Hall and preserve it as an historic site. At the time, it was one of only three GAR Halls left in Minnesota. Funding was limited, as was the support needed to develop a plan for the building's use and supervision. Without money, the plans were abandoned and the building suffered from its lack of use and age.

Eventually it was deemed a hazard and the Linwood Fire Department burned it down in a training exercise. The old GAR Hall served its last good purpose in helping firefighters be better prepared to serve their community.

Contributions & New Members – Thank You

All lists are current to April 10, 2014

Donations

American Legion:
Edward B. Cutter Post 102
June Anderson
Robert & Lois Blewett
Mike & Mary Clark
Suzanne Dilcher
Dan Erhart
William Erhart
Judy Hanna
Guila Ann & Thomas Hunt
Merlin & Betsy Hunt
David & Donna Legrid
Shirley Lynch
Tim Jerome & Marilyn Manley
Lillian Meyer
E Lou Morse
Wes & Lois Spadgenske
Tom & Linda Sullivan

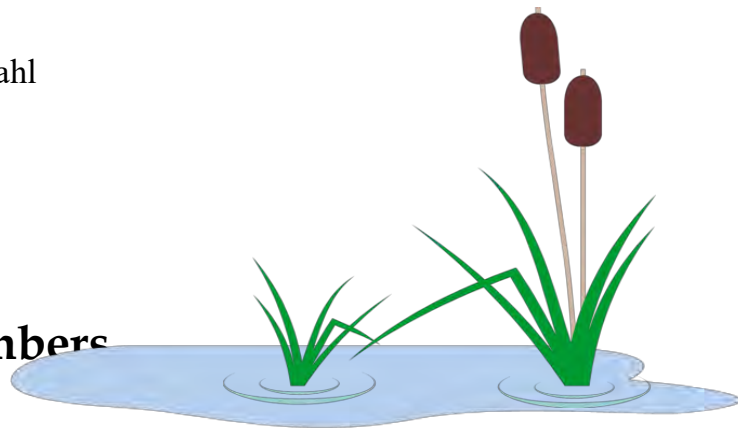
William R. Barda
Gary Bettcher
Ellen Cantrell
Marlys Chutich
Shirley Dassl
Bob Dordan
Chuck Drury
Cindy & Camilla Emmans
Don Johnson
Linda Mundle
Tom & Lana Mullaney
Al Paulson
Al Pearson
Denise Rosendahl
Jack Weston

Gloria Given
Sara Given
Valerie Horton
Emily Korynta
Lois Kunkel
Jean Moe
Joachiam Scholz

Artifact Donors

New Members

Jacob Drury
Joan Gerber



HISTORY CENTER GIFT SHOP

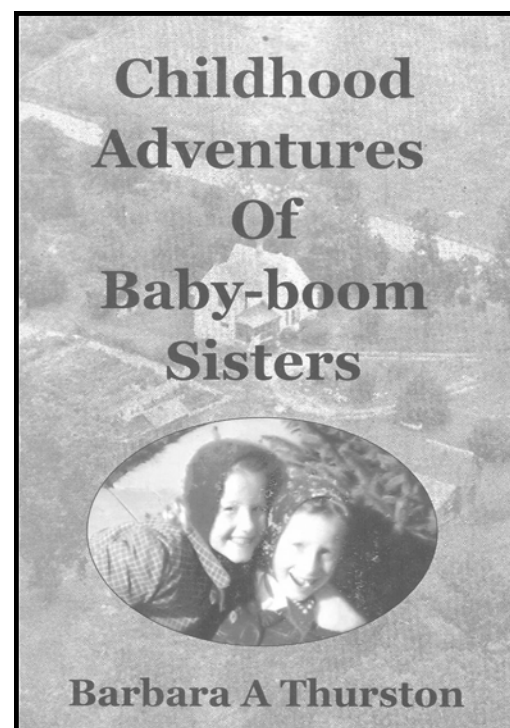
Book Review

Childhood Adventures Of Baby-boom Sisters

By Dianne Pederson, ACHS Volunteer

As you enter the History Center, directly to your left by the front desk is a glass cabinet. This resource center contains many items for you to graze at or if they spike your interest, can be purchased. Out of the many books available, I selected one by Barbara A. Thurston named: *Childhood Adventures of Babyboom Sisters*.

It takes place at Barbara's family farm located in what was Oak Grove Township during the fifties and early sixties. I now live in the same city, so this book had a special interest for me. The chapters are an easy read that include adventures from her parents, two brothers and sister. In the beginning of the book, Barbara shares many events from her life. She talks about her best playmate and sister "Evie." However, with many chores and rules to follow it was not a life of fun. Her brothers always had activities that would cause them all the misfortune of getting in trouble. You will read about how everyone stuck together through thick and thin, especially during hard times. A second book may be in the works to continue the *Childhood Adventures of Baby-boom Sisters*. I can hardly wait to read more.



\$12.86 with tax

Available at the Anoka County History Center

Programs & Events

Civil War Small Arms

7 p.m. Thursday, May 1

Location: Anoka County History Center, Anoka.

Small arms of the Civil War were far more than just the Springfield of Enfield musket. There was an astonishing array of rifles, side arms, carbines, and revolvers carried by soldiers on both sides of the war. A variety of weapons will be on display for this special talk by collector and scholar, Michael Ritchie. **FREE**

Rum Runners and Temperance Tantrums

2 p.m. Saturday, May 3

Location: Rum River North Park Shelter, St. Francis.

For more than a generation, forces sought to end the insidious influence of booze. The ban itself didn't end the problem and most likely caused more problems than it solved. Anoka County waged their own wars over the liquor before the 18th amendment went into effect in 1920, and even before it was repealed. The program looks at the battle over booze, illegal and otherwise, that divided so many communities. **FREE**

Volunteer Recognition for the 10+ Club

12:00 noon Tuesday, May 6

Location: Anoka County History Center, Anoka.

A lunch to honor the ACHS volunteers who have been with us for ten years or more. This year's theme "Through the Decades" welcomes you dress in your favorite decade attire. This is a private event for 10+ years volunteers. To attend volunteers must be currently active (gave volunteer hours within the last 2 years) and began their volunteer career with ACHS in 2004 or earlier. If this applies to you and you didn't receive an invitation please call us. **FREE**

Ghosts of Anoka Walking Tours

7:30 p.m. Thursdays and Saturdays

May: 8, 10, 22, 24 June: 5, 7, 19, 21

Location: Anoka County History Center, Anoka.

Join us for history and mystery as you venture through downtown Anoka with a costumed tour guide.. Beat the fall crowds by signing up for a summer tour to hear the history and unexplained stories of homes and businesses in this historic neighborhood. **Advanced reservations required.**

Cost: \$7.50 Adults, \$5 Youth, \$5 ACHS Members

Civil War Bus Tour

9 a.m. Saturday, June 28

Location: Anoka County History Center, Anoka.

Join us for this fun look at local history through a Civil War perspective. Explore both sides as you learn that not everyone in Anoka County voted for Lincoln. The coach bus leaves from the ACHS parking lot at 9:30 a.m. and will return approximately at 2:30 p.m. Ticket price includes bus tour, lunch at a historic site and entrance to the Civil War exhibit at the Anoka County History Center, with gallery guidebook. **Reservations required, seating is limited.**

Cost: \$35 per person, \$30 ACHS Members

Book Presentation

Asylums, Treatment Centers and Genetic Jails

7 p.m. Thursday, June 19

Location: Anoka County History Center, Anoka.

Author Michael Resman, a retired Occupational Therapist who worked at the Rochester State Hospital, is the author of *Asylums, Treatment Centers and Genetic Jails: A History of Minnesota's State Hospitals*. His program will discuss the history of Minnesota state hospitals, focused on Anoka. Questions discussed will include why recovered patients weren't discharged, and why only numbers were used to mark hospital graves. **FREE**

SAVE THE DATE

Anoka Heritage Home and Garden Tour

Tickets on Sale in June!

1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, July 13

It's become a favorite summer social event. This year's tour focuses on homes in Anoka near the Mississippi River, east of the Rum River. Tickets go on sale in June and can be purchased at the History Center or online..

Cost: \$12 in advance, \$15 day of the tour.

WCCO Recognition Dinner

Wednesday, October 1

What are your WCCO radio memories? For nearly 90 years, WCCO has broadcast from its tower in Coon Rapids. The Anoka County Historical Society will host a recognition dinner for WCCO radio featuring WCCO personalities. Plans are being made and details are still being finalized, but be on the lookout for more information for this once-in-a-lifetime event.



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

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- Linwood
- Nowthen
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- Ramsey
- St. Francis
- Spring Lake Park



A Great Day for a Picnic

By Vickie Wendel, Program Manager

Who doesn't love a picnic? Especially after a long hard winter! How far back does the fun idea of taking a meal outside to eat go? Did our ancestors generations back have picnics? The word **picnic** is believed to have been first used in France in the late 1600s. Back then, it was spelled "pique-nique." It meant a meal where everyone brought something to contribute to the common feast.

Over time the meaning began to shift to eating outdoors with foods that were not necessarily brought by each guest. This shift may have begun with the banquets spread out on tables under the trees at the end of a king's hunting expedition. As such, very early picnics were enjoyed only by the rich. This continued until into the early 1800s when industrialization provided people of varying wealth more leisure time.

By the 1860s, picnics were well established in the United States and while the degree of formality depended on the social status of the picnickers, picnics had common themes of eating outside and less formality than usual dinners. Less formality was relative. Many Victorian era picnics were still quite formal affairs with tables, chairs, multiple courses, and a host of dedicated servants. The food was still served with the proper courses and stiff manners of the era, but the idea of taking it outside to a pastoral setting made it more fun than eating in a dining room due to the highly regulated manners required there.

In 1861, a landmark book on cooking and housekeeping was published: *Mrs. Beeton's Book of*

Household Management. It gave detailed instructions on how to hold a picnic. For 40 people, Mrs. Beeton insisted on, among many other things, cold roast beef, four meat pies, four roast chickens, two roast ducks, four dozen cheesecakes, and one large cold plum pudding. To quench the picnicker's thirst, three dozen quart bottles of beer were on the menu, as well as claret, sherry, and brandy. Indeed, a well-to-do picnic was still a formal affair. The social standing and economic status of the picnickers were the determining factors regarding how fancy or formal the picnic and its menu was going to be. Few people in Anoka County in the 1860s or 70s had servants, much less took them along to serve a picnic.

Technology makes some things easier to take on a picnic. Today, battery powered coolers keep foods cold without ice, though nothing beats plunging your hand all the way to your elbow into an ice-filled cooler to pull out your favorite chilled beverage on a hot afternoon. A variety of insulated containers make taking hot or cold foods to a picnic today practical and convenient, but modern devices really have little over picnickers 100 years ago.



Continued on page 3

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The Anoka County Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions to ACHS are tax-deductible within the allowable limits of the law.

From the President...

James Oberstar's Anoka County Legacy

By William Erhart

The recent passing of James "Jim" Oberstar should remind us of the instrumental role he played in the key issues involving Anoka County. When Congressman Oberstar first ran in 1974, Anoka County was included in the 8th Congressional District. He received substantial support from the citizens of Anoka County and was elected. He represented Anoka County until 1980. Then, due to re-districting, the 8th Congressional District no longer included Anoka County. However, Oberstar often commented that he still considered Anoka County his God Child area. This was clearly displayed in the support he provided through his tenure as an elected official. Congressman Oberstar developed expertise on transportation issues over the years. It has been stated that he knew more about transportation than anyone else in the United States. As his seniority continued, he became ranking member and then served as Chairman of the Transportation Committee of the United States Congress when the Democrats controlled the House of Representatives. In both positions he had tremendous influence over the transportation budgets. The budget he oversaw was larger than many states' total budget. His influence was deeply felt in securing funding for Highway 610 expansion and upgrading the many roads of Anoka County.

He also was a huge supporter of air travel. Due to his support, Anoka County was able to expand the Anoka County Airport. This included the funding for the control tower that now serves the airport. This facility also allowed training to those who were interested in aviation. He also provided the key support in assuring sufficient funds to extend the east/west runway to allow more modern aircraft to take off and land. His legacy can also be seen in rail transport. Without his assistance, the Northstar Commuter Rail would not have been a reality. As we go on in our daily routines, we should long remember and be grateful for Oberstar's foresight and help on issues involving Anoka County.



From the Director...

What are Your WCCO Memories?

By Todd Mahon

In the 1980s, when I was a kid, my mother listened to WCCO radio in the morning as I was getting ready for school. Each jingle and sounder for news stories signified to me how much time I had left before it was time to go out the door. Some of the reports didn't make a lot of sense to me, even though I heard them every day. To this suburban kid, the regular agriculture reports may as well have been about activity on Mars. I could tell it was important. They sure seemed to talk about it enough, but I never could understand why we needed to hear how much sorghum was selling for each day.

When winter storms hit, WCCO had the power to make or break my day. It was this station that all school kids and parents tuned in to find out if the school closed because of the weather. I imagine that most of the state tuned in to hear the venerable Boone and Erickson announce if their school had closed. Their words would make kids jump for joy or hang their heads.

On October 1, 2014, ACHS will hold a recognition dinner for WCCO as they celebrate the 90th year of broadcasting. For the entirety of those 90 years, their radio tower in Coon Rapids has sent out the signal heard across the state, and, with the right weather conditions, across the world. This should be a terrific celebration as WCCO personalities from the past and present will be on hand to mark the occasion. Be on the lookout for information about the event and buying tickets.

In the meantime, we want to hear what your WCCO memories are. Visit AnokaCountyHistory.org and share your stories, or drop us a note at 2135 Third Avenue North, Anoka, MN 55303. Tell us about commercials and advertisers you remember, who your favorite hosts were, or other ways WCCO radio played a part in your lives.

Improved Cookers at Lower Prices Than Ever

Save Your Time, Money and Food
By Cooking With a "Best Made" Fireless Cooker!

STEAM TIGHT COVER
ALUMINUM LINED
THROUGHOUT

ROASTER RACK
PIE RACK
CAKE RACK
SOAP STONES

\$9⁸⁵

**Single
Compartment**

All you have to do is heat the food to boiling point in one of the aluminum vessels and place inside the aluminum lined compartment with hot soapstones. They hold enough heat to cook an entire meal. The compartments are insulated throughout and fitted with steamtight covers. Especially useful on auto trips, picnics, etc.

Sturdily Built and Completely Equipped

Outside case made of sheet steel. Completely equipped as illustrated, including aluminum cooking utensils as shown. Attractive cook book included. **Not available.**

99K2323—Single Hole Fireless Cooker. Outside dimensions: Length, 14½ inches; width, 14 inches; height, 14 inches. Shipping weight, 60 pounds.....**\$9.85**

99K2324—Double Hole Fireless Cooker. Double equipment. Outside dimensions: Length, 28½ inches; width, 14½ inches; height, 14½ inches. Shipping weight, 98 pounds.....**\$16.95**

Continued from page 1

One such device was a fireless cooker, which was a great way to keep something hot. It worked by heating a round stone that fit into a well in a box so that you could place a container of hot food on top of it. The cover and space around the well were filled with straw, hay, or sawdust as insulation. The stone kept the food hot until it was time to eat. These were marketed and popular in the first decades of the 1900s, but there was an even earlier method for keeping food hot without a stove. A homemade version of these cookers was called a Hay Box. The hot food in the pot was buried in a box of hay for insulation to keep it warm. It is thought this idea may have come about when work took people too far from the house to be convenient to go home for a

hot noon meal. Taking a hay box gave them a hot meal wherever they were working. Of course, using the same idea on a fun outing quickly followed.

Making and selling merchandise specifically for picnics began at least as early as the last decades of the 1800s. Aluminum was a popular material as it was lightweight, durable, and relatively easy to manufacture into all kinds of shapes. Stop by the History Center to see some of the picnic items on display in the lobby—and then take your own picnic out to a favorite spot in one of our wonderful Anoka County parks.

WHY WAIT FOR HALLOWEEN?

10:00am-4:00pm Saturday July 12
At the Anoka County History Center

Share Your Ghost Stories
Visit with Ghost Tour Characters
Meet Roxy Orcutt,
Anoka's Halloween Honey
Enter to win Tour tickets



Dear Volunteers

Recognition Reflections

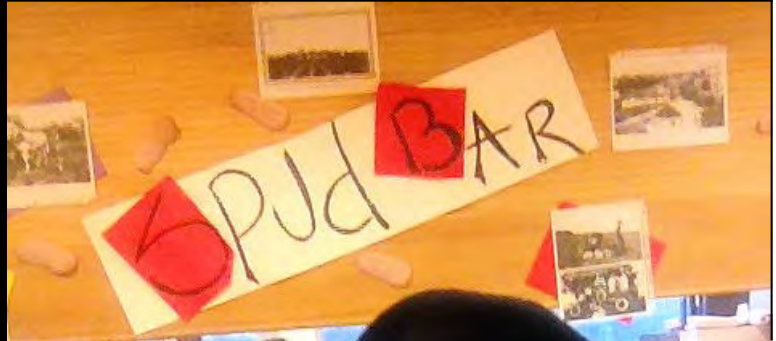
By Kim Bauer, Volunteer Coordinator

I had to share some photos from the volunteer recognition events held last spring and thank you again for what has already been a wonderful 2014 year. I have enjoyed getting to know you and appreciate your patience with my first year learning curve. These photos prove that ACHS volunteers know how to have a good time. To recap, the annual volunteer recognition event had a *Ripley's Believe it or Not* theme that showcased the unusual artifacts and stories from the Anoka County History Center's collection. A big shout out to Nate Otto (the guy with the sultan hat and mustache) for his strong performance narrating the presentation. Another big thanks to those of you that helped in the preparation and assistance for the celebration. Lunch included a potato bar complete with Anoka County spud factoids. Pat Serreyn, young at heart, can be seen swinging the new toy that was included in her door prize.

The 10+ years of service volunteer event, *Through the Decades*, was developed and hosted by one of our new volunteers, Jenna Anderson. Jenna has interned and volunteered at a variety of museums including the Sherburne Historical Society, the Weisman Art Museum, and the Boulder History museum in Colorado. She will be continuing her B.A. history degree by returning to school in the fall for her Masters. I think we can all agree that Jenna is a valuable asset for museum employers. ACHS will continue to support the future endeavors of our youth and young adult volunteers by providing leadership opportunities that will elevate their resume. Although our mission is history, ACHS acts as a stepping stone for many futures.

Thank you to all of our outstanding volunteers for gracing us with your skills, commitment, and friendship. Enjoy your holiday and don't forget to drop by and see us at the fair and threshing show.

ACHS Believe It or Not! - Annual Recognition



Through the Decades - 10+ years of Service

Home & Garden Tour

Anoka Heritage Home and Garden Tour

Sunday, July 13 ♦ 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.



Tour all sites for
\$12
 Day of tour
 Price: \$15



Order Online

Presented by:



The highlight of the summer! The tour features open house tours of homes and gardens in southeast Anoka. Ticket buyers have the chance to win raffle prizes at business stops, and coupons for area businesses.

Advance sale tickets can be purchased at the Anoka County History Center at 2135 Third Avenue No., Anoka, by phone at (763) 421-0600, or online at AnokaCountyHistory.org.

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Contributions & New Members – Thank You

All lists are current to June 10, 2014

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Cub Foods, Coon Rapids

Lowe's, Coon Rapids

Rainbow Foods, Coon Rapids

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New Members

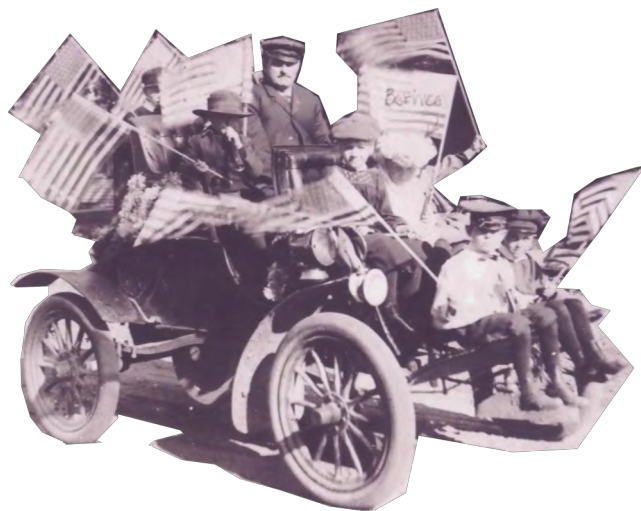
Rich Oxley

ACHS Remembers

Warren Edward Cleator

January 1922 – April 2014

ACHS Member and a great supporter of local history.



HISTORY CENTER GIFT SHOP

Book Review

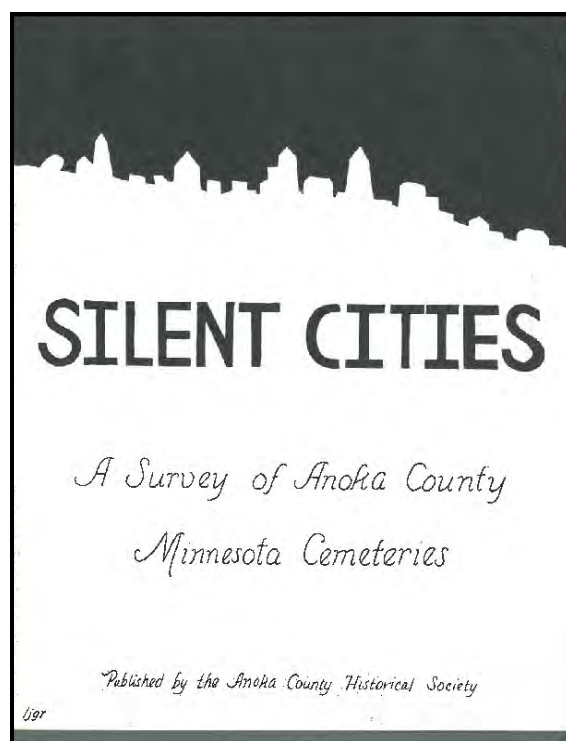
Silent Cities

By Dianne Pederson, ACHS Volunteer

As I browsed through the history bookcase, one in particular caught my eye. It is called *Silent Cities*. This 1977 book is a survey of Anoka County Cemeteries, public, private, or abandoned.

How could a book about a place for the burial of the dead be interesting? To the historians, genealogist or families, it contains a wealth of information thanks to the dedicated people who took two and one-half years to compile a ton of items. All of the cemeteries are grouped in alphabetical order with a brief description of the burial ground along with alphabetical order, names, dates, marker or monument inscription on the stones. Every effort was made to recover personal data and epitaphs from the stones. If the maker was unreadable it is noted as “[epitaph illegible]”. All stones have been translated from the original language to English. The book was updated on a CD-ROM in the early 2000's.

Don't forget that the “Silent Cities” come alive in the fall with our own cemetery tours. Listen as the spirits of the graveyard tell history through the stories of their lives.



\$6.50 including tax

Available at the Anoka County History Center

Programs & Events

Anoka Riverfest

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 12

Location: Anoka County History Center, Anoka.

Drop by the History Center during Riverfest and meet characters from our popular Ghost Tours. Share your own Ghost stories and explore the unexplained with the author of: *History and Hauntings of the Halloween Capital*, Roxy Orcutt.

Cost: FREE, Roxy's blog www.halloweenhoney.com



Home and Garden Tour

Anoka Heritage Home and Garden Tour

1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, July 13

Location: Select homes and gardens, Anoka.

It's become a favorite summer social event. This year's tour focuses on homes in Anoka near the Mississippi River, east of the Rum River. Tickets can be purchased online or at the Anoka County History Center.

Cost: \$12 in advance, \$15 day of the tour.

Anoka County Fair

Visit ACHS at the Old Farmhouse

Farm House Hours: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. July 22-27

Location: Fair Grounds, North Ferry Street, Anoka.

The Anoka County Historical Society continues our tradition of bringing history to life at the Old Farmhouse located at the Anoka County Fair. Be sure to stop by and see us when you are making your fair rounds.

Cost: Gate Admission Ticket, see AnokaCountyFair.com



Nowthen Threshing Show

Visit ACHS at the General Store

August 15, 16, 17

Location: 7415 Old Viking Blvd., Nowthen.

Join in the fun as the Anoka County Historical Society staffs the General Store at the Threshing show in the city of Nowthen. When you walk through the store's doors you will venture into the 1920's and see an array of candy, pickles, and old timey toys. The store is open for business from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Cost: Gate Admission Ticket, see NowthenThreshing.com



Ghosts of Anoka Walking Tours

7:30 p.m. Thursdays and Saturdays

July: 3, 5, 17, 19 August: 7, 9, 21, 23

Location: Anoka County History Center, Anoka.

Explore the Halloween Capital of the World. Join us for history and mystery as you venture through downtown Anoka with a costumed tour guide. Hear about the history and the unexplained stories of homes and businesses in this historic neighborhood. You can beat the fall crowds by signing up for a tour this summer. Advanced reservations required.

Cost: \$7 Adults, \$5 Youth, \$5 ACHS Members



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COME OUT AND SEE US



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Collier Remembers his WCCO Years

By Vickie Wendel, Program Manager

One of the most hard-to-miss landmarks in Anoka County stands along Coon Rapids Blvd. - a little east of the city of Anoka - the WCCO Radio tower. The broadcasting towers for the station have been fixtures in the area that have delivered broadcasts for generations of listeners. Stories abound in the area that the tower's signal was picked up in the fillings of teeth, in dryers, and caused interference in phone lines and TV reception. A man by the name of George Collier worked inside the building at the foot of the tower that can be seen as you drive by.

George was the WCCO transmitter technician at the tower for 45 years before he retired in 1974 and wrote down some of his stories. The station was operating a 5000 watt transmitter on a 500x700 foot piece of land bought from a farmer. It had been on the air for three years when George came to work at the site in 1928. He worked on that first transmitter for four years before it was replaced with a 50,000 watt transmitter. The old one was sold to another station (WDGY) and eventually ended up somewhere in South America. George kept track of the

transmitters he worked one even after they left WCCO.

He remembers the new transmitter going on the air during a night in 1932. Perhaps the middle of the night was a good time to try it out, as it was an experimental model. Western Electric was developing the transmitters and the one bought for WCCO had the dubious distinction of being serial number "1." The operating manual was dated 1927, but it had all the latest developments and was as modern as transmitters could get in 1932.

George was impressed by the immense size of the transmitter. Three box cars brought all the pieces as far as they could and they transferred to trucks for the last mile to the station. He also noted a fair amount of damage as they started to uncrate the pieces and had to get some replacement parts from Western Electric. With the new parts and some ingenuity from the WCCO personnel, the transmitter came on. A side benefit of this undertaking was all the beautiful wood crating used to ship the transmitter. *Continued on page 3*



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From the President...

The Philolectian Society's 125th Anniversary

By William Erhart

From the time Anoka County was organized, many civil and service organizations have served the community in multiple ways. One of the oldest groups, the Philolectian Society, will be celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2015. In the late 1880s, there were several prominent women of Anoka who organized a club known as the Ladies' Social Club of Anoka. After a short time, the members became more interested in formal organization with a civic mindset and adopted the name "Philolectian Society." Philolectian is a Greek word meaning *for the love of learning*. In the spring of 1892, the *Anoka Union* published an article advocating for the establishment of a public library in the city of Anoka. Shortly thereafter, the members of the Philolectian Society were enthusiastically instrumental in establishing this free public library, which opened in January 1894. The society has grown and continues to provide guidance and stimulation to its members as well as serve the community in many ways. Currently, there are over 250 members who meet regularly.



From the Director...

State Hospital History at ACHS

By Todd Mahon

It's funny how things run in cycles. Depending on one's personality and beliefs, these cycles are credited to luck, coincidence, divine intervention, karma, or any number of things. Regardless how you describe them, the Anoka State Hospital has been coming up a lot at the Historical Society over the last year.

At the beginning of this year, we started an oral history project interviewing former staff, patients, and community members associated with the Anoka State Hospital (also known as the Anoka State Asylum and Anoka Metro Regional Treatment Center). A grant from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund paid to hire a contract historian to conduct the interviews. It also bought some supplies and paid for transcriptions of the interviews. We partnered with the Rich Oxley's students at the Hennepin Technical College to record the interviews on camera. His students received valuable experience and we gained access to a professional quality studio and equipment.

As we start to wrap up the project and get transcriptions of the interviews, it seems like the Anoka State Hospital history keeps walking through the doors of the Anoka County History Center. Just a few weeks ago an Anoka resident was checking out a garage sale and came across a box of white fabric. She assumed she could use the fabric for rags. On closer inspection, she saw that the box was filled with more than twenty remnants, mostly bodices, of uniforms from the State Hospital. They all bore stamps from the institution. A skirt and apron were also found with it. The owner of the home was the niece of a former employee at the hospital. The next day a three-inch thick report titled "Facility Evaluation" was brought in by Terry Lehn. It was given to him when his company did some electric work on the grounds several years ago.

The offers to tell stories continue to come in. A story on the project featured in the *Star Tribune* brought out names we didn't have. We're trying to evaluate what to do next with the incoming history.

There are two reasons I love that the Anoka State Hospital history continues to arrive. First, people are saving the history that is out there. Second, it is brought to ACHS because they know and support our mission to preserve Anoka County's history.

Continued from page 1

One employee took most of the crating home and built an addition onto his house with it. A passersby today would not have recognized the antenna used by that new transmitter. The first antenna at the site was a “T” style antenna comprised of two 300 foot towers with the a wire strung between them. The “T” antenna was used until 1939 when the present tower was built. That tower stands at 654 feet tall. It was staffed 24 hours a day by a crew of eight.

In 1950, a second 50,000 watt transmitter was installed in the same building. It was much smaller and far more efficient than the first one, but it was still manufactured by Western Electric. It also happened to be the very last transmitter Western Electric ever built. The station now housed both the first and last transmitters Western Electric made. George said when the employees realized this they named them Alpha and Omega. Omega, the more efficient one, was operated as the main transmitter and Alpha was the auxiliary until 1967.

In that year WCCO bought the latest and greatest in 50,000 watt transmitters from the Continental Electronics Company. George wrote, “Poor old Alpha, good and faithful servant, was scrapped and went to Maxie Schwartzman. Part of my heart went with it.” George had cared for Alpha for 40 years, but even he had to admit, getting the right replacement parts—that were tubes—was getting very difficult. Alpha’s other downside was that it took 260 Kw of power to get the signal broadcast and Omega took only 150 Kw to do the same job. The new transmitter did the job with only 90 Kw. Technology continued to change and Omega became obsolete. It was replaced in 1967. Omega, too, went for scrap at Maxie Schwartzman’s, a metal recycling plant on Ferry Street near the railroad tracks.

All of the work to maintain or replace the transmitters

was done by WCCO personnel while the station was on the air. The radio signal was a lifeline in a crisis and a friend when far from home, no matter what time of day or night. Keeping it broadcasting was of the highest priority, one that George took seriously for 45 years.

The Man in the Tower

George was 21 when he began working for WCCO. He left his beloved transmitters to serve in WWII where his time in the service was spent building radio towers throughout England and Scotland to provide communication for the armed forces. After the war, George returned to Anoka, married Elaine and they moved into a house on Third Avenue in Anoka. The house was old and they eventually decided to tear it down and rebuild. George designed their new house himself. Its most distinctive feature is its flat roof. Elaine often said it was George who “kept the station on the air.” She also said they would often drive to open fields to check the radio signal for WCCO to see how far the station could reach. George was never truly “off the clock” from his transmitters, even when he said he had to use skis to get to the tower because snow closed the roads. George passed away in 1996 and was laid to rest in the Fort Snelling Cemetery.



George Collier, county resident, worked for WCCO for 45 years.

Learn More: WCCO’s Impact

WCCO fans; be sure to browse the assortment of books that are available to read on site at the Anoka County History Center. These books cover an array of the background and highlights of WCCO throughout the years. *The Worst of Boone and Erickson* by Charlie Boone & Roger Erickson, *Good Neighbor to the Northwest 1924-1974* by Bob Williams and Chuck Hartley, *When 'CCO Was Cookin'* Book by Dick Chapman, *The First Forty, The Story of WCCO Radio* by Charles F. Sarjeant.



Dear Volunteers

Sara's Change of Address

By Sara Given, Volunteer Coordinator

I have officially moved! My chair has rolled five feet to the left and I am ready to begin as the Anoka County Historical Society's new Volunteer Coordinator. While it is weird at first to sit in a new spot, I am excited and appreciate the opportunity to see ACHS from this new perspective.

Many of you have met me already in the past few months, but I wanted to introduce myself again. I've been a life-long resident of Anoka, but didn't join the ACHS community until four years ago as a volunteer and ghost tour guide. I was then hired as a member of the staff this past January as Administrator.

More good Sara things to know: I have a vintage sewing pattern collection going back to the early 1900's

and my ultimate goal is to sew something from each one; I have a cat named Hildy (named after the old 1940 movie *His Girl Friday*) who I swear is half dog; and I am a cellist with the Roseville Area String Ensemble as an excuse keep music in my life and also have an evening with my sister who plays the viola with me in the group. Over the past weeks I have worked and collaborated with Kim as she transitioned to her new position at Dodge Nature Center, and I am ready to kick off our busy Fall season with you. Check out all the amazing programs available this fall on the Programs & Events page. Stay warm as it gets colder and I'll keep you posted on what new volunteer happenings we have as they come up.



Volunteer Opportunities

Headline Hunters

Time Commitment: Ongoing and flexible to fit your schedule.

Location: ACHS

Training & Requirements: Training with staff, beginners welcome.

Our newspapers are piling up! We are looking for detail-oriented volunteers to go through our collection of local newspapers to identify articles that relate to Anoka County. By clipping, copying, and filing these stories, ACHS is able to offer a wealth of information in a variety of topics for the public to investigate. Reviewing these sources regularly will fill your mind with stories to talk about around the dinner table and make you an expert on Anoka County happenings.

History Transcribers

Time Commitment: Ongoing and flexible to fit your schedule.

Location: ACHS or in the comfort of your home.

Training & Requirements: Training with staff, beginners welcome. Ability to use the Microsoft Word computer program and actively listen while typing.

Hear history first hand, as you listen to recordings from interviews that we have conducted with fascinating individuals from Anoka County. On a computer, you will type these stories into a Microsoft Word document. The documents you create will be preserved in the ACHS collection so that future generations have access to the voices from the past.

What are your WCCO memories?

The evening of Wednesday, October 1, 2014 at the Courtyards of Andover

Join the Anoka County Historical Society as we celebrate 90 years of WCCO radio. Current and past WCCO personalities are scheduled to attend this dinner and program. Proceeds from this fundraiser benefit the Historical Society and its programs.

Dinner & Program
\$40
8-person tables
\$315



WCCO

Sponsored by:



Reservations required. For more information and to purchase tickets call 763-421-0600 or visit AnokaCountyHistory.org.



Contributions & New Members – Thank You

All lists are current to August 5, 2014

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Benevity:

Community Impact Fund
Lindwood Township
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Joe & Stacey Hendren
Delynn Mulligan
Jennifer Shoemaker
Sharon Werner
Ruby Wilson

In Memory

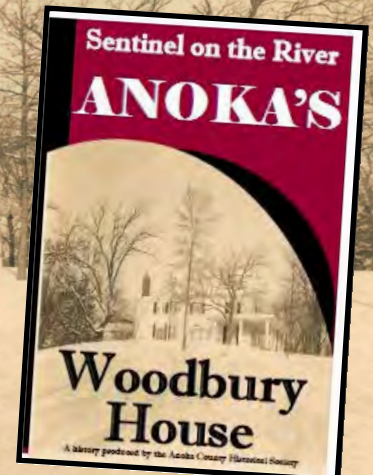
June M. Bendix (1926-2014)
ACHS Member, WCCO fan and
proud resident of Anoka.

Charles F. Wallace (1926-2014)
Anoka native, WWII veteran and
Anoka 1939 tornado storyteller.



NEW WOODBURY HOUSE EXHIBIT AT THE HISTORY CENTER

Be sure to pick up your copy of
Sentinel on the River: Anoka's Woodbury House,
written by Vickie Wendel. Now sold at ACHS and
The Mad Hatter Restaurant.



\$5.00 tax included

Programs & Events

Civil War Lecture Series

All Lectures Begin at 7 p.m.

Thursday Sept. 4, *The Third Minnesota*

Thursday, Oct. 2, *Civil War Medicine*

Location: Anoka County History Center, Anoka.

Due to its popularity, the Civil War series has returned. Join the Anoka County Historical Society for lectures that focus on a variety of Civil War topics.

On September 4, historian Joe Fitzharris shares the story of the 3rd Regiment, Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, a group that has the unwanted distinction of being the only Minnesota unit to surrender during the Civil War.

On Thursday, October 2, Civil War interpreter Michael Murray shares the accurate story of medical treatment and practices at the time of the war.

Cost: FREE

Book Presentations

7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 8, **Author Roxy Orcutt**

7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 16, **Author Jim Rogers**

Location: Anoka County History Center, Anoka.

Join us for two book events in the month of October. Meet the author, ask questions and learn more about the book's creation.

History and Hauntings of the Halloween Capital, by Roxy Orcutt will be featured on October 8. Take a look into why Anoka, MN has been declared "The Halloween Capital of the World" by Congress. This book takes a fun and spooky look at the elements that make up the unique town of Anoka.

Northern Orchards: Places Near the Dead, by Jim Rogers will be featured on October 16. This thought-provoking collection of essays and poems explore the memory, the meaning of place, and sacred space. Sites discussed in the essays include the Old Pioneer Cemetery on Cedar and Lake in Minneapolis and the Acacia Park Cemetery in Mendota Heights, which are located atop a Native American burial ground. Rogers gives us a tour not of death but of living history in his visits to graveyards.

History and Hauntings of the Halloween Capital, by Roxy Orcutt will be sold on site for \$16.95.

Northern Orchards: Places Near the Dead, by Jim Roberts will be sold on site for \$14.95.

Cost: FREE

WCCO Radio 90th Anniversary Dinner

5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 1

Location: Courtyards of Andover

13545 Martin St NW, Andover, MN 55304

Join us for a recognition dinner as we celebrate 90 years of WCCO radio broadcasts. The program will feature WCCO personalities from the past and present, with stories and laughter sure to bring back all those old memories...and make some new ones, too.

Cost: Nonmember single ticket \$40

ACHS member single ticket \$35

8 tickets with reserved table \$315.00

Annual Monuments to Life, Cemetery Tours

All Tours Begin at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 7, East Bethel Cemetery, East Bethel

Thursday, Oct. 9, Soderville Cemetery, Ham Lake

Saturday, Oct. 11, Oakwood Cemetery, Anoka

Explore the stories of those who reside in our "silent cities" during our 12th annual *Monuments to Life* Cemetery tours. These evening tours visit the grave sites of some of the area's best known and least known people. Stories, traditions, characters, history and graveyard symbolism will be shared.

Cost: Nonmember \$8 per cemetery, \$21 for all 3 tours

ACHS Member \$7 per cemetery, \$18 for all 3 tours

Ghosts of Anoka Walking Tours

Evenings: Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays and every day the week of Halloween.

September: 4, 5, 6, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27

October: 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25

Halloween Week: 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31

Location: Anoka County History Center, Anoka.

Explore the Halloween Capital of the World. Join us for history and mystery as you venture through downtown Anoka with a costumed tour guide. Hear about the history and the unexplained stories of homes and businesses in this historic



Anoka County Historical Society
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Anoka, MN 55303
(763) 421-0600

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SERVING:

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



German Discrimination in WWI

By Maria King, ACHS Volunteer

Throughout history there have been times when social custom or law allowed people to **hate**. I've lived long enough to see African-Americans, women, gays, and Muslims have to fight for the rights that should automatically be theirs as Americans. Hate usually goes hand and hand with fear, and throughout history it has been difficult to determine if hate is the *cause* or the *effect* of war.

During World War I there were social and political advantages to be gained by being anti-German. The Committee on Public Information (CPI) was created by executive order on April 13, 1917 to shift public opinion toward supporting U. S. intervention in the war. The committee was headed by George Creel, who viewed it as, "a vast enterprise in salesmanship, the world's greatest adventure in advertising." Initially, the CPI used facts, but with a spin, to create an upbeat picture of the American war effort. Quickly however, it began churning out raw propaganda picturing Germans as evil monsters. Patriotism became a passion, albeit a twisted one.

German food was removed from restaurants and bartenders removed pretzels from lunch counters. Hamburger became "liberty sandwich" or "Salisbury steak." Sauerkraut became "liberty cabbage" and the German measles became Liberty

Measles. Locally, Hoff's German Liniment became simply Hoff's Liniment.

The first target was public schools where the teaching of German language was banned. The California State Board of Education condemned German as "a language that disseminates the ideals of autocracy, brutality and hatred." An Iowa politician charged that "ninety percent of all the men and women who teach the German language are traitors." Montana barred a history textbook for its "pro-German" viewpoint because of a passage that said, "Christianity advanced from the Rhine to the Elbe." Colleges were required to teach a War Issues course, which was a twisted history, placing blame for the war entirely on Germany.

Next the wrath of the nation was turned against "hyphenated Americans" (German-Americans). Shops owned by German-Americans were boycotted, and sometimes wrecked. Vigilantes inspected public libraries and invaded private homes; if German books were found during these searches, they were destroyed. Music came under scrutiny as well and victrola records of

Pictured Above: Akin family photo of automobiles parked at the celebration held for Company B's departure during WWI. ca. 1917. Glimpses of the Anoka County courthouse can be seen through the trees.

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

Anoka County History Center & Library

2135 Third Avenue North
Anoka, MN 55303

(763) 421-0600

Fax (763) 323-0218

E-mail: achs@ac-hs.org

AnokaCountyHistory.org

History Center Hours

Tuesday, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Wednesday-Friday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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

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

From the President...

History Relived

By William Erhart

The Anoka County Historical Society celebrated WCCO's 90th Anniversary on October 1, 2014. This event provided a special opportunity to relive the shared history of WCCO Radio in Anoka County. WCCO's tower was constructed and ready for operation in the spring of 1925. WCCO Radio was and continues to be one of the premier radio stations that provides entertainment, news, and weather to Anoka County residents, as well as across the Upper Midwest.

The program highlighted a number of historic events including WCCO Radio's reporting the 1939 tornado and the 1965 storm that caused significant destruction in Anoka County.

The event was popularly attended. Numerous WCCO radio personalities and staff, both past and present, participated. In addition to a wonderfully prerecorded program that outlined the history of the station, there were many stories told in an impromptu fashion. One story, shared by Donald Greenberg, was his use of the airport. He described the complexity of avoiding the tower when taking off and landing at the nearby Pierce Airport.

John Magnuson, a former WCCO Radio technician, confessed that once when he was re-grounding the electrical system it caused an explosion that took the signal off the air briefly. Another former employee described the quiet, peaceful atmosphere of working at the tower away from everything. This quiet was interrupted at the end of World War II when he heard all kinds of horns honking and saw a parade coming down the street in front of the tower.

This event was brought to Anoka County with the help of many volunteers and staff from the Anoka County Historical Society. A special thanks goes out to Tom Ward whose inspiration ignited the idea for the event. We also want to thank WCCO Radio for participating in the event as well as the other following sponsors: Federal Premium Ammunition; Community Pride Bank; Erhart & Elfelt Law Office; Mercy and Unity Hospitals, Allina Health; Pierce Motel; and Sannerud, Savarese & Associates. Thank you to all who attended.



From the Director...

Remember ACHS in your annual donations

By Todd Mahon

The end of the year is here, and for many of us it is the time when we plan our last charitable donations for the season. I'm planning to remember the Anoka County Historical Society in my year-end donations, and I know many of you will too. In case you're the forgetful kind, be on the lookout for a letter of request from ACHS in your mailboxes soon.

I realize that there are lots of worthy organizations and causes that ask for your support and donations every year. My own mailbox receives letters like this every week. But when you are making your year-end donations, please remember us. After all, we're in the business of remembering. So please, donate to the Historical Society and ensure that history is not only kept, but told. Donations to the Anoka County Historical Society are 100% tax-deductible. We are a 501(C)(3) not-for-profit organization.

It's always a good time to make a donation to the Historical Society, but for some of you in our membership, IRS rules might make it an even better time. Those of you with Roth IRAs and are age 70 ½ and older might be in the position where you will need to take a "minimum required distribution" (MRD) from your fund or face a tax penalty. Be sure to consult with your tax professional or financial advisor.

Continued from page 1

Wagner, Bach, and Beethoven were smashed. Dachshunds were kicked in the streets, and anyone owning a German Shepard dog risked arrest as a spy. People with German last names were banned from the Red Cross. Clubs and churches were banned from speaking German, and in Iowa, the governor forbade the speaking of German on streetcars, over the telephone, or in any public place. Here in Minnesota, a minister was tarred and feathered because he was heard praying with a dying woman in German.

Evangelist Billy Sunday taught children to hiss the German flag. In a prayer opening the House of Representatives, he said the Germans were, “the most infamous, vile, greedy avaricious, bloodthirsty, sensual and vicious nation in history.” He went on to describe them as “that great pack of wolfish Huns whose fangs drip with blood and gore! If hell were turned upside down, you would find “Made in Germany” on the bottom!”

Brutal assaults and even lynchings were not uncommon. At risk were any pacifists, anyone of German descent, or any labor union advocate. Most often the perpetrators were found not guilty by juries, who sometimes commended their misguided zeal as patriotism. The *Washington Post* commented, “In spite of excesses such as lynching, it is a healthful and wholesome awakening in the interior of the country.” At Brooklyn’s Plymouth Congregational Church, the Reverend Newell Dwight Hillis offered Christian forgiveness to the German people “just as soon as they are all shot.”

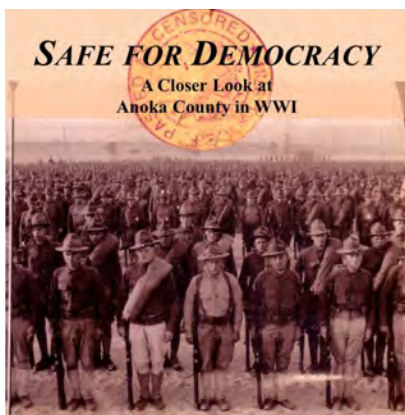
When society allows hatred, it condones behaviors that, in turn, cause hatred. Hopefully, the excesses of the past can become a lesson for the present, and the future.



Private Albert Soderquist (from Cedar) in WWI military uniform holding a rifle/gun. He served in France.

Learn More about WWI with ACHS

Come to a Library Program



Safe For Democracy

Join us on Saturday, November 15 in Circle Pines and learn about Anoka County during WWI.

This year marks the centennial of this war that took nearly 117 million lives with a goal of making the world “Safe For Democracy.” We will discuss wartime rationing, travel restrictions, censorship, ethnic discrimination, forced registration and the surrender of personal property which were all accepted as a part of daily life during the Great War.

Learn how life changed right here at home in this slide presentation, featuring stories and photographs from Anoka County.

See page 7 for location details.

Browse the Collection



The ACHS Collections and Research Library have a number of resources about WWI. Come in and take a look at:

- ◇ *The Great War and Anoka County* compiled by Dave Niles.
- ◇ The Curry Letters—A collection of letters to Ann Curry from her former students serving in the War.
- ◇ *With The Colors: Anoka County* by Roe Chase in 1919.
- ◇ *History and Rhymes of the Lost Battalion* by “Buck Private” McCollum in 1919.

Story of an Artifact



Krumkake iron and detail

Scandinavian Cookie Equipment

By. Vickie Wendell

This is the time of year when we start thinking of the treasured family traditions and what we need to get ready to share them once again. Many holiday traditions center on foods that can require special equipment such as the krumkake iron and sandbakel tins in the ACHS collections.

Krumkake, the plural form is krumkaker, are the Norwegian words for “bent cake.” The name describes the process of making them since as soon as the cake (today we think of it more as a cookie) is removed from the hot iron, it is rolled around a cylinder to make it into a cone shape that can be filled before serving. The batter is flour, butter, eggs, sugar and milk with various flavorings or spices as individual families chose. It is a thin batter and only a small amount is poured into the hot iron as these cookies a very thin and crispy when made right. Designs in the iron are pressed into the cookie batter as it bakes. After baking only seconds on each side, the iron is opened, the cookie removed and quickly rolled into a cone shape to cool. The cone-shaped wafer cookie can be served plain or filled with whipped cream or fruit. Krumkake is usually served with coffee around the holiday season and some traditions include dunking the cookies in coffee.

The krumkake iron in the ACHS collection was made by the Nordic Ware Company of Minneapolis. In 1948, when they introduced the krumkake iron, the company was known as the Plastics for Industry Company, but their name changed in part due to the success of the Scandinavian products they produced. Minnesota’s large Scandinavian population certainly helped in that success and Anoka County had its generous share of residents tracing their roots to that heritage.

Traditions do not recognize borders however, and this traditionally Norwegian krumkake iron was owned by Doris Abrahamson, a Swedish descendant. In making krumkake, Doris was continuing a tradition passed on from her mother.

Sandbakelse, also spelled sandbakkels, are a kind of

sugar cookie and, depending on who you ask, stem from either Norwegian or Swedish heritage. The name means “sand tarts” and tradition is hazy about their origins.

The cookies are made with flour, sugar, butter, and eggs with the family’s choice of spices, often cardamom. After the batter is mixed, it is cooled, then pressed into small, fluted tins for baking. The tins are not filled; the dough is only pressed to the sides and bottom of the tin so the finished cookie is shaped like a cup. In many families, little children are allowed to press the dough into the tins as one of their earliest baking experiences.

After baking, the fragile cookie cups are carefully flipped over and gently knocked on the bottom to pop the cookie from the tin onto the table to cool. The cookies are often served with a filling of dates, puddings, jellies, fruits, whipped cream and more.

An early recipe for sandbakelse appeared in a Norwegian cookbook in 1845, but the popularity of the cookies and ease of obtaining commercially made tins did not come until later in the 19th century. One reason for their slower popularity than the krumkake was that sandbakelse cookies required a finer flour which was harder to get and more expensive.

ACHS has several of the baking tins in the collection, but again, history is clouded on their origin.

As you start thinking about your own holiday traditions, set aside a few minutes to write down the special things you do to celebrate the holidays and make sure those traditions are not lost, even if they are not actively carried on any longer. Sharing those memories with ACHS will preserve them for your family and many families yet to come.



Sandbakelse Cookie Tin

Welcome Aboard!



Meet Audra Hulse

There is a new face at the front desk. The Anoka County Historical Society welcomes Audra Hulse as our new Administrator. An Anoka County resident for most of her life, Audra has a B.A. in History from Lawrence University. After spending two years teaching English in Japan, Audra returned to the United States. Soul-searching what to do next, she decided to pursue her two main interests, history and “organizing stuff,” and earned a Master of Library and Information Studies degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison focusing on business archives.

Audra volunteered with ACHS in 2007, and came back as a volunteer this past February. With her knowledge of archives she began organizing our “All Around the County” Collection of materials about the County’s various cities and townships. Her attention to detail, and archival knowledge will be a great addition to our ACHS team. We interviewed Audra so you can get to know more about her.

What are you looking forward to while working with ACHS?

I am most looking forward to working with the archival collections here. ACHS has a lot of interesting materials that I’m excited to learn more about, with the goal of making our patrons more aware of these great resources! I’m currently diving in to our Oral History Collection (Check out the transcripts on our website!)

Can you tell us a little history about yourself?

I was born near Cincinnati, Ohio but moved to Coon Rapids when I was 10 and have been in Minnesota ever since. I’ve always had a strong interest in history, so it’s not really a surprise that I ended up pursuing that as a career. Archiving lets me organize those original documents. I helped a small company in the Madison area, Trachte, Inc., to organize their old records, which included catalogs from 1909 and original patents from the 1910s and 1920s. It was really fascinating!

What are you famous for?

Among people who know me, I’m probably known for having a pet snake. He is a corn snake named Daiki. I also have a playing card collection. It probably has over 300 decks by now, though I haven’t counted recently.

Do you have any hobbies or specialties?

I write fiction and I cross-stitch when I have time. I have also started my own business offering archival services to local companies—pretty much doing for them what I get to do for ACHS every day.

Tell us about a memorable experience you had while volunteering for ACHS.

While searching our digital catalog, Sara Given and I accidentally came across an entry we had to explore. We found some original land grants from the early 1770s authorized by King George III, which are part of papers from the Ticknor family who later moved to Anoka County, so that was pretty neat!



We Need Your Stories!

In preparation for an upcoming exhibit about love and courtship, ACHS is looking for your help.

Do you have a story—romantic or otherwise—about how you met the love of your life? We want to include it in our archives at the History Center and may even use it in our February lobby exhibit as well as a featured Wedding showcase in the main exhibit hall. Just think how much fun it will be for future generations to read about how their ancestors “courted”!

Please jot down your story of love and bring or send your story, along with a photo of you both, to the History Center by January 12, 2015.

Contributions & New Members – Thank You

All lists are current to October 23, 2014

WCCO Event Donations

James & Molly Bauer
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Clyde Riddel
Dolores Puente Strand
Pat Schwappach
JoAnn Belle Walters
The Mad Hatter Tea Room

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Tony Elfelt
Donna George
Sarah & Mark Gustafson
Veronica Johnson
Luanne Koskinen
Raymond Rudrud
Karen Siewert
Sarah Smith Joslin
John Wolinski
Clyde & Andrea Wyatt



WCCO Memories



Programs & Events

Civil War Lecture Series

Grant's Experiments Before Vicksburg

7 p.m. Thursday Nov. 6,

Location: Chomonix Golf Club House.

700Aqua Ln, Lino Lakes, MN 55014

On November 6, historian David Page will share the story of Grant's campaign at Vicksburg and the role this event played in the Union Army as a whole.

The loss of Vicksburg, Mississippi in 1863 was the second major blow to the Confederacy that summer, the first being Lee's defeat at Gettysburg. Not so much a battle, but a series of engagements, Grant's use of conventional and unconventional military tactics at Vicksburg are still hailed for their effectiveness and are seen by many historians as a major factor in the General's ascension to the command of the entire Union army.

Cost: FREE



Anoka County Library Program

Safe For Democracy

2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 15

Location: Circle Pines City Hall, Circle Pines.

200 Civic Heights Circle, Circle Pines, MN 55014

This year marks the centennial of this war that took nearly 117 million lives with a goal of making the world "Safe For Democracy." We will discuss wartime rationing, travel restrictions, censorship, ethnic discrimination, forced registration and the surrender of personal property which were all accepted as a part of daily life during the Great War. Learn how life changed right here at home in this slide presentation, featuring stories and photographs from Anoka County.

Cost: FREE



Documentary Screening

Anoka and the Tornado of '39

7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19

Location: Anoka County History Center

Come and view a screening of North Metro TV's new documentary of *Anoka and the Tornado of '39*. This documentary recounts that hot summer day seventy-five years ago that changed the city of Anoka forever. On that day a tornado crossed the confluence of the Rum and Mississippi rivers headed right for the town. In total, the path of the storm was over 30 miles long leaving nine men and women dead in its wake. This traumatic event's tale is told in this 20 minute documentary produced by North Metro TV. Eric Houston, the filmmaker of *Anoka and the Tornado of '39*, will be on hand to answer questions after the film. No registration required but seating is limited.

Cost: FREE



Ornament Presentation

Trimming the Tree with Circle Pines

2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2

Location: Anoka County History Center

Join us for the unveiling of this year's ornament for our holiday tree. The City of Circle Pines will present a unique ornament to ACHS. Afterwards, there will be a special program about Christmas celebrations through the years in Anoka County.



Civil War Lecture Series & Anoka County Library Program

Civil War Christmas

7 p.m. Thursday Dec. 4, Civil War Christmas

Location: Chomonix Golf Club House, Lino Lakes

2 p.m. Saturday Dec. 6

Location: Rum River Library, Anoka.

Two chances to join in the festivities with ACHS's most popular Christmas program, *Civil War Christmas*, on December 4 and 6. A spirited talk from a presenter in full 1860s fashion shares stories of how a tree might have been decorated in this area in the 1860s, what Christmas treats would have been prepared, the kinds of gifts exchanged and more. Guests hear the music of the season and get a taste of what a Christmas in Anoka County during the hard years of the American Civil War may have been like. Both events are open to the public but seating is limited.

Cost: FREE



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