



History Center News

Newsletter of the Anoka County Historical Society

Vol. 42 No. 5

September – October 2012

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

Sheriff Talbot Left His Mark

Ralph “Buster” Talbot was sworn in as Anoka County’s sheriff in 1960 and served in that office continuously until his retirement in 1986, making him the longest serving sheriff the county has ever had.

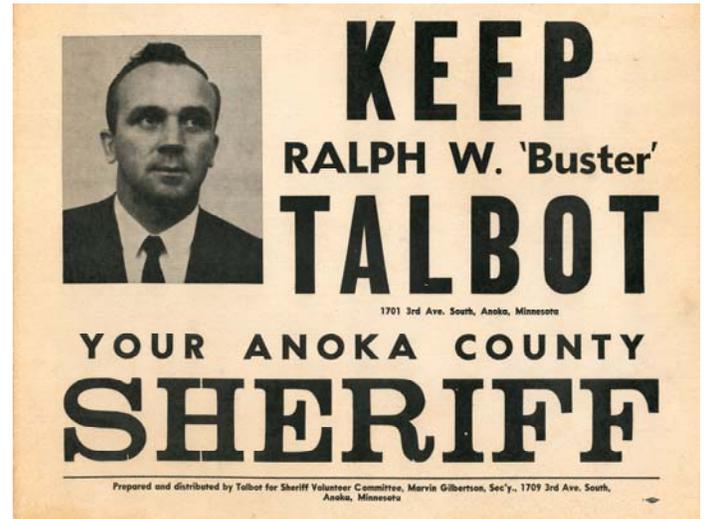
But that is not the most important fact that should be remembered about Buster’s time in office. Buster had the distinction—whether good or bad—of being sheriff over a county that was rapidly changing from rural to suburban, from sparsely populated to densely populated pockets of housing packed with growing families. Despite the need for increased law enforcement, budgets were tight and attitudes were hard. Now bring in Minnesota’s youngest county sheriff and expect him to figure it out.

Buster did more than figure it out. He implemented ideas and programs that are not only still used by Anoka County law enforcement today, but have been emulated across the nation.

Not long after taking the oath of office, Buster teamed up with Anoka County Attorney R. W. Johnson to promote the idea of starting Anoka County’s own radio system instead of contracting with Hennepin County. It was a prelude to the real vision—a radio system to unite all of Anoka County’s law enforcement agencies on a single system to coordinate their efforts and make the best use of resources. This service continues as part of the 911 system, instituted in Anoka County in 1982, that allows the public to dial a single number and receive whatever emergency services might be needed.

In 1966, Buster came to the county board with a plan for a mobile crime lab. He had already secured support from six of the county’s city police departments and the plan was to consolidate the investigation of major crimes with the Sheriff’s Office. This allowed for highly trained officers to investigate crimes across the county, saving individual cities the expense of their own crime labs.

With a shared crime lab and “police net” radio system operating across the county, disparities began to be seen in how each department handled standard calls and that there were differences in training for their officers. A plan developed to have a county training program headed by the Sheriff’s Office, but designed for all law enforcement officers across the county. The idea was not unique to Anoka County; a



movement to standardize and professionalize police was underway in Minnesota and Buster Talbot was appointed to serve on the first state Peace Officer Training Board in 1967.

The training program that followed fed directly into the Mutual Aid Agreement between county and local law enforcement. The Mutual Aid agreement, signed in March of 1968, provided a county coordinated security squad capable of acting as a single unit in an emergency instead of many departments operating separately. The training program, under this mutual aid agreement, was an ambitious one. It was the first program of its kind in the state, and it made Anoka County an example to be watched by many in higher levels of law enforcement.

These partnerships led quickly to the Joint Powers agreement, finalized in 1970. It built on an older, more complicated system that allowed an officer in one department to operate in another department’s service area in the same manner as his/her own. Crossing a city line was not an escape route for a bad guy, nor did an officer outside of his/her own community have to worry about liabilities or insurance.

Working across department lines was more efficient and put more resources available to law enforcement across the county, but it was not the end of collaborative ideas.

(continued on page 4)

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

Anoka County History Center & Library

2135 Third Avenue North
Anoka, MN 55303

(763) 421-0600

Fax (763) 323-0218

E-mail: achs@ac-hs.org

www.ac-hs.org

History Center Hours:

Tuesday 10-8

Wednesday-Friday 10-5

Saturday 10-4

Board of Directors

President – Al Pearson (District #1)

Vice President – William Erhart (At Large E)

District #2 – Bill Prugh

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

At Large B – Dan Frank

At Large C – Tom Ward

At Large D – Dick Lang

At Large F – Paul Pierce, III

At-Large G -- Catherine Vesley

At-Large H -- Harvey Greenburg

County Commissioner Liaison –

Robyn West

Staff

Executive Director – Todd Mahon

Program Manager – Vickie Wendel

Admin. Assistant – Caitlin Frey

Volunteer Coordinator – Elaine Koehn

Curator Projects – 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.

From the Director...

By Todd Mahon

What Makes History Important to YOU?

I often hear supporters of the Anoka County Historical Society lament that people don't like history. On the flip side, when some people learn that I work for a historical society, they sort of embarrassingly tell me that they have never really liked history—almost offering an apology because they presume I'll either be offended or was just about to ask them to write an essay describing the impact of the printing press on the distribution of the Federalist Papers.

I'm not offended when people tell me that they don't like history. Usually, if I draw it out in conversation, I find that most of the people that don't like history are really saying they are not interested in military history or political history. But then I find out what they are interested in and I start asking them about the history of that subject. If they like baseball, it's usually not hard to start asking them their opinions about the greatest players in the game or the best teams. At a certain point, I then like to point out that we've been talking about history, but it's just about the history of something they like.

Now, this newsletter is read mostly by members of the ACHS, so it's assumed that you already have some appreciation of history. But it's still a good exercise to occasionally ask yourself why you are passionate about history and what kind of history you gravitate toward.

For some, they love the history of their family and immerse themselves in genealogy. For others it's a love of their home and community, so they join their local historical society to learn more about that. These are both subjects that connect on a personal level, which is why people can be so passionate about them. But not all of these connections need to be so intensely personal.

So what gets you excited about history? What subjects are you interested in? Which ones would be good for future programming or exhibitions at the Anoka County History Center? We'd like to hear from you!

From the President...

By Al Pearson

When we moved to our present farm in 1946, our community was called Dayton Port, located west of Anoka on Hwy 10 across the Mississippi from Dayton. As a boy, I would ask the older neighbors if anything exciting ever happened here. Our next door neighbor, Harry Warneke, told me about a killing and fire in the one room school house that was on his farm. That was exciting!

This happened many years before, in 1921, during the prohibition years, when the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages was illegal. Mr. Warneke said a man named Frank Kelly, from Mankato was driving with another man and woman to Elk River to buy Canadian Whiskey. Kelly had \$300 when he left home in his car. He was shot west of the school, put in his car, and taken to Elk River where they planned to dump his body in the river. But it was December and the river was frozen over. They then came back, put the body in the school and set it on fire to cover their deeds.

Mr. Warneke and his brother heard shots and went out to investigate, but didn't see anything. They assumed it must have been a car back firing and went inside thinking all was well.

The next morning, they and other neighbors saw the smoldering building, checked it out, saw the body, and called the sheriff.

When the case went to trial, the killer said he was hiding behind a tree just a few feet away and would have shot Mr. Warneke and his brother if they had come one step closer. The perpetrators evidently got into a dispute about the money and the liquor.

As a boy, I didn't think anything bad ever happened in the country, but only in the city. I never thought anything like that could happen almost on my family's door step.

Note: The dead man was identified by the sheriffs from Anoka and Hennepin Counties when they found a piece of half melted jewelry under the body. Evidence at the scene led them to a suspect. He confessed and was sentenced to life in prison just eight days after the murder.

The Teapot Dome Scandal!!

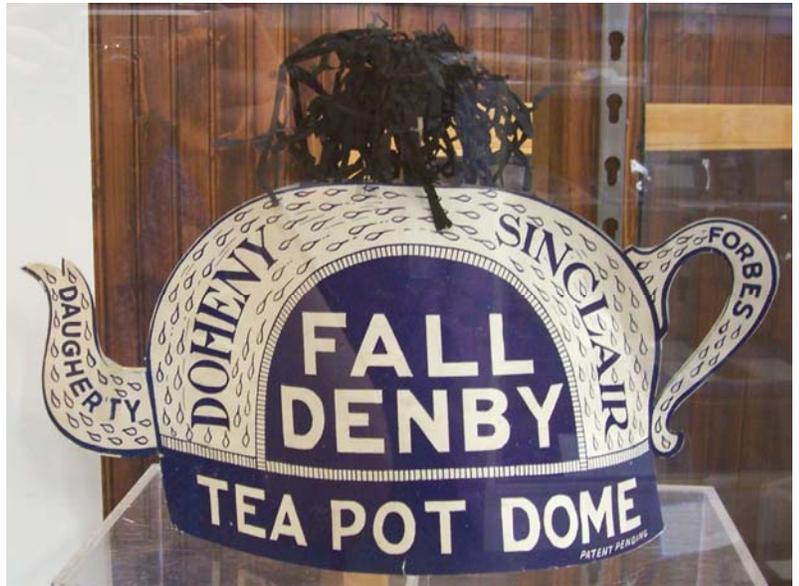
While preparing for our newest exhibit, *A Democratic Process*, ACHS staff came across a remarkable item in our collection. Likely used as a window display, this die-cut cardboard teapot references the Teapot Dome scandal that rocked the nation in the year before the 1924 presidential election (pictured to left). This sign would have been used by opponents of President Calvin Coolidge as a way to remind voters of the corruption associated with his Republican party.

The Teapot Dome scandal took place between 1922 and 1923 during President Warren Harding's administration. By the time an investigation concluded in 1924, Harding had already died, and Vice-President Calvin Coolidge had assumed the presidency. The scandal centered on Harding's Secretary of the Interior **Albert Fall** who illegally assumed control of oil tracts (one named Teapot Dome and the other Elk Hills) that had been reserved for the Navy. Secretary Fall then leased these oil reserves to **Harry Sinclair** of Sinclair Oil Company and **E.L. Doheny** of Pan-American Oil Company in return for a \$300,000 bribe. Secretary of the Navy **Edward Denby** and Attorney General **Harry Daugherty** also played a role in the illegal dealings.

All of these men are represented on ACHS's teapot, as is the name of **Charles Forbes**, Harding's director of the Veterans' Bureau who was accused of stealing millions from a veterans' hospital project. The black tissue paper spouting from the teapot, as well as the printed drops on the sign, symbolize the oil reserves in question.

Playing out across newspaper headlines only months before the election, the Teapot Dome scandal affected both the Democratic and Republican campaigns of 1924. Republican incumbent Calvin Coolidge fought to separate himself from the scandal by firing the members of Harding's Cabinet who had been involved. Meanwhile, one of the front-running Democratic candidates, William McAdoo, also became tainted after his friendship and business dealings with Doheny were revealed. Because of this, the Democrats went with a second choice for their candidate, John W. Davis of West Virginia, a conservative who was insulated from the whole affair. This nomination divided the Democratic Party as the more liberal contingent backed Progressive Bob LaFollette of Wisconsin, effectively handing the election to Coolidge.

In Minnesota, the presidential vote split between the Republicans and Progressives with Calvin Coolidge winning here in Anoka County. In the editorial pages of the *Anoka County Union*, editor Thomas Granville Pease opined, "Calvin Coolidge will be the next president...he has emerged from the Teapot Dome scandal, the bonus fight and



This is the paper window display—or maybe hat?—in the ACHS collection. It is made in the same style as the paper hats from the 1920s, but we find no references to any kind of teapot such as this being used as a hat. Even as a window display, these Teapot Dome artifacts are rare. It is on display until the end of the year in the *A Democratic Process* exhibit.

the immigration fracas with little if any damage to his popularity.” Pease later noted about the Democratic nominee: “who they will nominate is difficult to predict but it doesn't matter very much” and that “it is a safe wager that LaFollette will get more votes than the Democrats can cast.” Despite predictions of voter apathy, an estimated 1,600 of 3,000 eligible voters participated in the election in the city of Anoka.

In researching this artifact, ACHS staff found that it was a rare example of existing political ephemera surrounding Teapot Dome and the 1924 election. It was learned that the Davis campaign tried to use the scandal to their favor. We cannot document if our teapot was displayed or worn in Anoka County during the campaign, perhaps by one of the few Davis supporters in Minnesota, or if it arrived here via a collector with an interest in political memorabilia. Either way, the political concerns represented by this artifact would have been as familiar to Anoka County inhabitants in 1924 as the issues surrounding the current presidential election are to residents today.

You can stop at the History Center to see the teapot and the rest of *A Democratic Process* through the end of the year. While here, explore the history of local and national elections as they played out in Anoka County and take the time to vote on which of today's political issues will most influence your vote in November.

Sheriff Talbot *Continued from page 1*

It was under Buster's watch that the Joint Law Enforcement Council came into being. It regionalized police functions such as purchasing, prosecution, record keeping, communications, training, recruitment and testing, grants, acquisition of equipment and property, and specialization of personnel. The council worked across municipal lines and departments to make the most of every available resource. While the departments might jointly negotiate for a better price on office equipment, the responsibility for law enforcement remained within each community. The Joint Law Enforcement Council dealt with law enforcement on an area-wide basis while still preserving individual community responsibility and authority. It was the first cooperative program of its kind in Minnesota and it won an achievement award from the National Association of Counties (NACO) in 1975.

It was under Buster's watch that the first uniformed female deputies were hired in 1965, and though with great pressure and reluctance, Buster saw the first female patrol officer began her duties several years later. Buster negotiated the first contracts with county cities that did not have their own police departments. For a fee, county deputies were assigned to that community and acted as its police force. Buster saw the first sexual assault hotline established in Anoka County and facilitated a much closer working relationship between the Sheriff's Office and the County Attorney's Office, making for better prosecution of offenders.

Buster began the first "community watch" program in the

county, asking citizens to watch out for each other and report what they saw. Another new approach to crime prevention Buster used was alerting the community what his deputies were going to be looking for when they patrolled. Speeding, weight restrictions, and drunk driving were the main targets with the idea that if the public knew speeders were especially being targeted, perhaps they were less likely to speed and everyone would be safer.



The first class of Rangers, 1977

Buster oversaw the start of the Ranger program. This volunteer program provided thousands of hours of manpower on the streets to backup regular officers and it won state awards for creative law enforcement solutions.

Buster was a "big picture" kind of sheriff, one who hired the right staff to do their jobs, leaving him to focus on new and innovative ways to protect and serve the public.

Monuments to Life Cemetery Tours

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

Thursday, October 11—Twitchell Cemetery, Lino Lakes

Saturday, October 13—Calvary Cemetery, Anoka

Tuesday, October 16—Constance Cemetery, Andover

Come to one or come to all three!

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

\$8.00 (non-members)

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

\$21.00 (non-members)

Tickets are limited and must be purchased in advance!

You will receive maps with your ticket purchase.

Get your tickets at the Anoka County History Center,

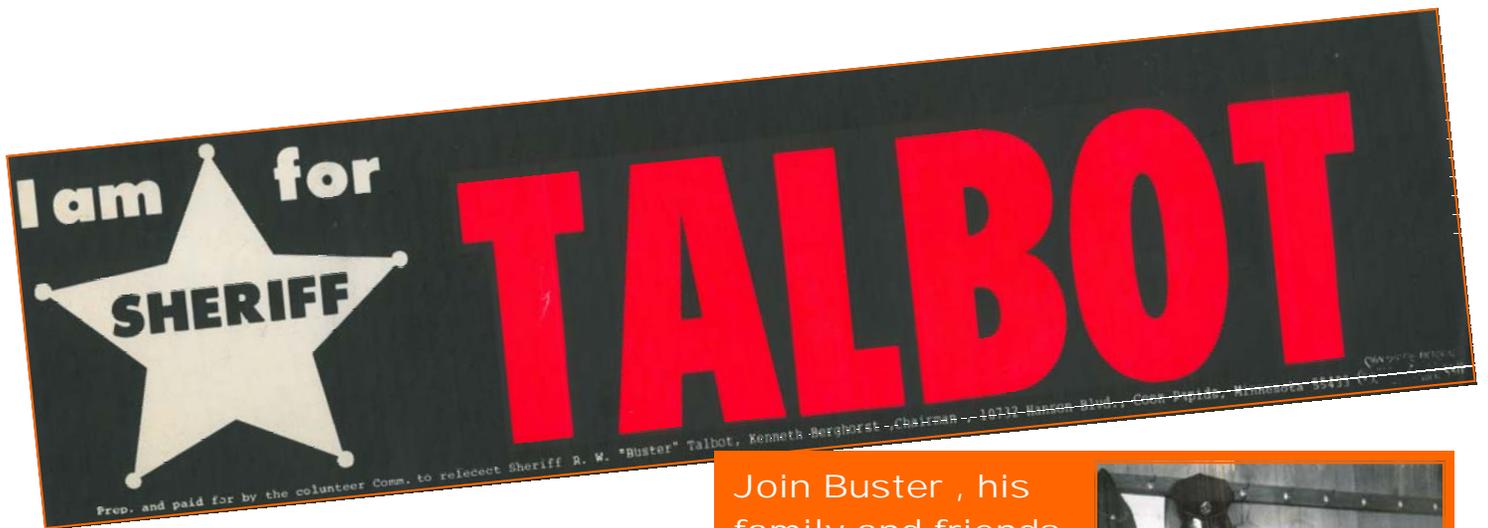
2135 Third Avenue, Anoka,

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

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

Ralph "Buster" Talbot Recognition Dinner

Benefit for the Anoka County Historical Society



Sept. 20

5pm-9pm

Courtyards of Andover

Join Buster, his family and friends as we recognize his contributions to Anoka County. For 26 years Buster served as sheriff, making him Anoka County's longest serving sheriff.



More info: 763-421-0600 ♦ www.ac-hs.org

Sponsored by:



Up To Date

Announcements and News

◆Just a reminder that the September 13 and October 11 ACHS Board of Directors meetings will be at 6:00 p.m. All are held at the History Center. Board meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome.

Greetings Volunteers! *By Elaine Koehn*

ACHS volunteers are certainly making their presence known this summer! Riverfest, Home and Garden, Anoka County Fair, Nowthen Threshing Show, and 4H farmfest all had volunteer representation. These additional commitments along with all of the ongoing volunteer positions are commendable.

Volunteers worked hard on Saturday, July 14th at Riverfest. Kevin and Patti Bellows, Sandy Connor, Sandy Thorsen, and Faith Kammerdiener sold tickets for the Home and Garden Show. In addition, we staffed a photo booth, our first attempt at utilizing all the costumes donated by Mike and Mary Clark. Patrons had fun dressing up in the old time clothes and having their pictures taken. Many did group shots and volunteers, Gary Greb, Sara Given and Carolyn Waataja, were available to help them select clothing for their photo. We suggested a donation of \$5.00 and we were kept quite busy. Darlene Bearl stopped by to check out the progress and was quickly recruited to help staff the front desk.

I am also very grateful to the 33 volunteers that worked at the Anoka Heritage Home and Garden Tour on Sunday, July 15th. It was a very hot day, but loyal volunteers were posted at each of the locations to ensure patrons would have a positive experience. Some sold tickets at the Artique, some were at the home locations and some were stationed at the gardens. Volunteers also worked on the administrative level to plan this annual event. Home and Garden Tours would not be successful without your time and dedication.

On July 23rd, volunteers helped to clean and set up the old farm house to get it ready for the opening day of the fair. On July 24-29th, volunteers came with all of their wonderful skills and talents to staff the old farm house. Many volunteers illustrated their talents through a variety of activities such as wood carving, lace making, butter churning, making lye soap, embroidery and activities for children. Those touring the farm house were especially interested in the round ice box and wood cooking stove. "I remember my Grandmother cooking on a stove like that" was a very familiar phrase. Thank you all so much for your time, the shifts were long and hot, but you proved what we already knew, ACHS volunteers are the best.

The Nowthen Threshing Show held from August 16 -18th is one of the most successful in the Midwest. It gathers hundreds of rare and historic antique tractors, small engines, steam engines, trucks, cars, implements and tools in one

Jean McFarlane selling candy at the Nowthen Threshing Show Store.



place for a three day event that brings the past to the present. The event is for people of all ages and the General

Store stocked penny candy and gallons of our famous dill pickles. This year, the store had a new line for sale—doll clothes sewn by volunteers. They didn't last long and every single piece was sold! The country store is staffed by ACHS volunteers dressed in costume. Again, long shifts, constantly on your feet, and continuous questions and chatter with visitors, but the volunteer crew begs to be asked again for the next year, so obviously they are having a great time.

Finally, Gary Greb will staff a table at the 4H Farm Fest event on September 30th making Corn Husk Dolls or as he says "Corn Husk Action Figures." Little boys won't make dolls, but will stand in line for action figures. Gary has done this every year and really enjoys the kids that he works with.

All of the activity at these events has been a great opportunity for me to work with and get to know many of you better. I am always so impressed by the ongoing dedication and consistency that you all show. We appreciate all of our dedicated volunteers and look forward to many more opportunities to work together for our common goal.

Those are the special events—all the projects at the History Center are still going, too. Karah Hawkins is more than halfway through documenting, measuring, inspecting and researching garments in the clothing cabinets. She came to ACHS as an intern for a class at St. Cloud State, but she used up those hours long ago and is still coming in once a week to continue her project.

Nickolas Walstad is another college student who came to us for some hands-on experience and he got it with our political collection research and assistance with the *A Democratic Process* exhibit. Other volunteers like Cheryl, Emily, Linda, Darlene, Marlys—the list goes on and on—are at the History Center every week, working behind the scenes, quietly doing the vital record keeping and research that preserves history.

What would we do without all of our hardworking and dedicated volunteers? Probably close the History Center doors, because we couldn't do this without them!

Contributions & New Members – Thank you

(All lists are current to August 17, 2012.)

DONATIONS

June Bendix
Gregory & Jackie Bortnem
Sherry Boyce
Chema Malu
Mike Ferris
Dale & Judy Frank
Ping Fung-Houger
Grassroots Co-op
Sara Klabunde
Linwood Township
Nancy Martin
Amy Michelsen
Cyndy Nelson
Kara Olson
Beverly Oyler
Dorothy Peterson
Winness Pierce
Philip Pinewski
Kevin Pouttu
Joy Reichel
Akanksha Shukla
Roger Sundstrom
Sara Telander
Nicole Theis-Mahon
Rita Warpeha
Denise Wenzel
Ernie & Sharon Woizeschke
Karen Woldstad

MEMORIALS

In memory of Paul Pierce, Jr.

From Debra Williamson

In memory of Elsie Zimmerman

From Dottie Carlson

In memory of William Ridge

From Dottie Carlson

HONORS

In honor of Buster Talbot

From Robert & Lois Blewett

In honor of Buster Talbot

From David Hoagland

In honor of Buster Talbot

From Mary Sell

In honor of Buster Talbot

From Donna Smith

EMPLOYEE MATCH

Ameriprise Financial/Dan Frank

NEW MEMBERS

Margaret Connolly, Ramsey
Judith O'Connor, St. Francis

ARTIFACT DONORS

Anoka County Sheriff's Office
Dennis Berg
Kathleen Brown
Marlys Chutich
Mike Clark
James Collins
Gail Dahl
Jennifer Delgado
James Duerr, Sr.
Eugene Hauff
Lotus Hubbard
James and Janis Johansen
Robert LaBrec
Brent Lee
Rebecca Loader

Kathee Lundberg
Janet Nelson
Norwegian American
Historical Association
Shirley Pierce
Lynne Rickert
Rum River Library
Alvin Schaut
Pat Schwappach
Donald Stafford
Cary Thelen
Craig Torbenson
Bart Ward
Tom Ward
Ernie Woizeschke



giveMN.org
Click. Contribute. Change Your World.

FIND A NONPROFIT OR A FUNDRAISER

ANOKA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
A US registered nonprofit

Anoka, MN USA

Donors' Wall

Tom Sherohman
Remembering where we have been is as crucial as knowing where we are headed.

Nonprofit Information:
2135 3RD Ave
Anoka, MN 55303
(763) 421-0600
EIN: 411375036

More Information:
Guidestar

Make a Donation

\$

Donate

The GiveMN site is available all year to make donations right from your smart phone or computer!

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

Myrtle Eveland, who passed away in February 2012. Myrtle was a life member of ACHS, a teacher and supporter of history.

Rod McCardle, who passed away in July, 2012. Rod was a member of ACHS and spent many hours researching and identifying photos in the ACHS collections.

Will Ridge, who passed away in July, 2012. Will was a long time member of ACHS, treasured family history, and was the great-grandson of the Union's first volunteer, Aaron Greenwald.

Joyce Bonnell Sage, who passed away on August 11, 2012. Joyce was a long time member of ACHS who supported history with her many gifts.

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

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

ANOKA, MINN.
PERMIT No. 198

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Coming Events

September 6, 8, 20 & 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Ghosts of Anoka Tour

October 4, 6, 13, 18, 20, 23 through 27, 30 & 31, with more added as demand requires 7:30 p.m.

Meet at the History Center. Tickets required. This Ghost Tour goes to places where something unexplained has happened and lets guests decide what it might be! Adult tickets are \$7 for non-members, \$5 for members and \$5 for children under 18 years. Get your tickets early, as we sell out of these popular tickets *fast!* We accept VISA and Mastercard.

September 20, 6:00 p.m.

Buster Talbot Tribute Dinner

(Andover) This is a not-to-be-missed event for an icon of Anoka County law enforcement, so get your tickets now! See page 5.

September 15, 9am-noon

Ghost Tour Docent Training

(Cub Foods, Riverdale) Have you ever thought about being a tour guide for the wildly popular Ghosts of Anoka tours? We are training new guides now! Call Elaine at 763-421-0600 if you are interested in attending the session.

September 22, 10-dusk

City of Nowthen Heritage Day

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

September 30

4-H Farm Fest

(Waldoch Farms, Lino Lakes) Explore educational and interactive booths, petting zoo, puppet shows and more at this family friendly event sponsored by the Anoka County 4-H. Free.

October 11, 13, & 16, 7:00 p.m.

Annual "Monuments to Life" Cemetery Tours

The 10th annual *Monuments to Life* cemetery tour series. This year's tour starts at the **Twitchell Cemetery in Lino Lakes on Thursday, October 11th**. Next is **Calvary Cemetery in Anoka on Saturday, October 13th**, and the tours wrap up on **Tuesday, October 16th, at the Constance Cemetery in Andover**. All tours begin at 7:00 and go on rain or shine. Buy a single tour ticket or save money with a ticket package for all three! See page 4 for more details.

October 13, 2:00 p.m.

Fashion Trends Program

(Rum River Library) A look at changes in fashion over the decades, featuring a costumed interpreter and lots of fun fashion stories as well as a selection of clothing articles from the past. This event is FREE and funded by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.