



History Center News

Newsletter of the Anoka County Historical Society

Vol. 41 No. 6

November — December 2011

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

A Most Determined Woman — Lydia Hancock

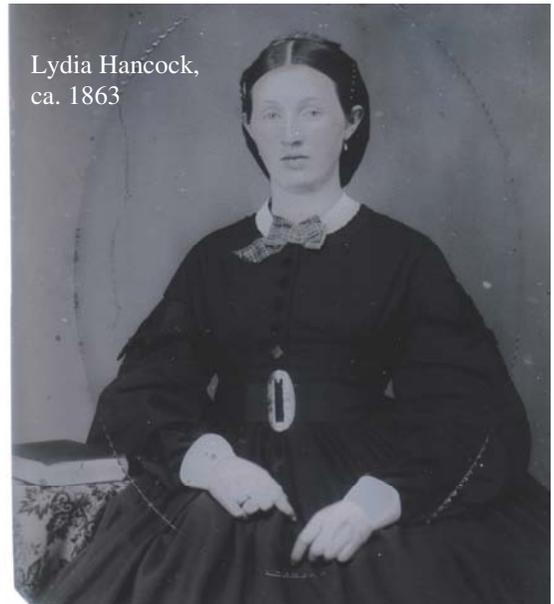
Lydia Hancock's story places her among a class of women with a unique role in the American Civil War. She would have been called a "camp follower" by many people when she went off to war at the heels of the company in which her husband was serving. Her actions defied that slanderous name and the scandalous activities it implied.

We know a fair amount about Lydia from documents in the Downs Family collection at ACHS. She worked as a nurse for the men of Company A, Eighth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry from the time it was organized in the summer of 1862 until she was "honorably released" from her service in February of 1864. It was said, "She found it was not necessary to be either in hospitals or upon the battlefields to be of service to her country's defenders."

The Union Army had little time for women and nurses had to work as volunteers, especially early in the war. Many believed women were not strong enough to withstand the horrors that could be encountered in an army hospital and therefore, most nurses were men when the war began. Lydia was one of many women who would soon prove the Union Army wrong.

Born in New Limerick, Maine, on April Fool's Day of 1839, Lydia's ancestry traced back to England. Her maiden name was Philpot and she moved to Minnesota with her family in 1854, where, in 1857, she married Charles H. Hancock when she was 18 years old. Charles and Lydia farmed just outside of Elk River, Minnesota. The farm was large, having a value of \$2,000 in 1860. Charles and Lydia also had another \$600 in personal property. It is not known what the circumstances were, but two years later, Lydia and Charles brought Abigail Adams, an orphaned toddler, into their home.

News of events in the South began to reach Minnesota and men were needed for the Union Army. Minnesota offered the first troops to Lincoln and continued to meet the President's calls for more soldiers to put down the



Lydia Hancock, ca. 1863

rebellion. Also watching the war efforts were the Dakota Indians then living on a reservation along the Minnesota River. Angry Dakota braves rebelled at the lack of payment for lands given up in treaties, the crop failures, and near starvation some of their people were facing. Their council of war suggested if ever there was a time to take back their lands, it was while so many of the white men were off fighting among themselves in the South. A confrontation between Dakota hunters and some white settlers near Acton, Minnesota, drew the first blood on August 17, 1862. That night, the Dakota's council of war decided to attack settlements in an effort to drive the whites out.

The day after that first confrontation at Acton, Charles enlisted in Company A of the Eighth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, then forming up at Anoka. While their farm was in Sherburne County, it was only a stone's throw from the Anoka County line and the couple had many friends in the communities of Ramsey and Anoka. The captain of the company was John S. Cady, a local surveyor who was gathering recruits to form Company A from the men of Anoka County and the surrounding areas. The regiment was assigned immediately, in fact, even before many of the men were formally mustered into the service, to defend the settlers of Minnesota against the Dakota Indians.



Company A of the 8th Minnesota Infantry on Main Street, Anoka. 1862.

(Continued on page 4)

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

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History Center Hours:

Tuesday 10-8

Wednesday-Friday 10-5

Saturday 10-4

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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 Director...

By Todd Mahon

Could Legacy Money Be Used for a Stadium?

In the last few weeks, there has been a lot of talk about how the State of Minnesota might contribute to building a stadium for the Minnesota Vikings. One idea that keeps coming up is using money from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, which comes from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment that was passed by Minnesota's voters in 2008. While no specific proposals regarding the use of these funds have surfaced, the discussion has certainly not gone away.

On October 28, I attended the annual meeting of the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums. Steve Elliot, the executive director of the Minnesota Historical Society addressed the group. One person asked about how serious this idea was. Elliot said he was taking it very seriously. Ben Leonard, the outgoing president of the Alliance and the director at the Nicollet County Historical Society brought up some great points in the discussion that I thought I'd repeat.

The discussion about whether or not the Vikings qualify as a part of Minnesota's cultural heritage is fruitless. However, to this point, Legacy funds have not been provided to for-profit entities. They have also not been provided for bricks and mortar projects on new construction—only for the rehabilitation of historic structures.

The Anoka County Historical Society received funds from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund to put together original research on the suburban development of Anoka and Hennepin counties. We have also been working with other Anoka County groups in the last year to secure funds for their projects to preserve and share Anoka County's rich history.

Opposing using Legacy funds for a stadium doesn't mean that one is necessarily opposed to a state contribution to the project. But these funds were voted on by the public for a specific purpose. It was a remarkable thing for Minnesota voters to pass this amendment. The threshold for passing a constitutional amendment includes that a non-vote on a legitimate ballot equates to a vote against it. Despite this, the amendment passed with more support than any other candidate or issue on that year's ballot. Minnesotans came together because they saw a need for these funds.

Please contact your representatives in the state legislature and share your thoughts.

From the President...

By Al Pearson

As the new president of ACHS, this is my first column for *History News*. I wondered what I should write about, having grown up in the county and what my focus should be. I started thinking about today and comparing it to what I grew up with, realizing how much history is around me every day.

In the early '40s, we walked to a one-room Ramsey school for grades 1-8. The school had an outhouse for bathroom facilities. Water came from a hand pump out in the yard. The heating system was a coal stove in the back corner of the room.

The older boys assigned to attending the stove would come early to bring coal up from the cellar bin to stoke the stove so the school room would be warm by starting time. The other jobs for the older kids were to pump water and fill the water fountain which was in the front hall. They swept the floor daily, wiped the desks off, cleaned the blackboards and clapped the erasers. In the winter months, shoveling snow was another regular chore for "the older boys."

The older girls helped the teacher with younger children in reading, writing, also with their boots and mittens when it was time to go home. During the years of WWII, the kids doing the chores were paid one 25¢ U.S. Savings Bond stamp a week.

With no electricity, the lighting was kerosene lamps, but for special activities, my father was always asked to bring his "modern" gas lantern. He was also on the school board and was responsible for the playground. He mowed the grass, installed swings and a teeter totter. The swings consisted of a 4" x 6" plank bolted between two oak trees.

Some of our extra activities were skating on the pond behind the school, Basket Socials and Christmas plays. Basket Socials were always fun because we got to buy that special girl's basket and sit with her to eat!

My how things have changed!

I look forward to serving as your president and working with all of our members to preserve our history.

The Story of an Artifact

Linwood's Ballot Box

This box is small, only 6 1/2" x 9 3/4" x 6", but it had a big responsibility. It was the ballot box used by Linwood Township for their elections. The wear marks indicate it was probably used for many elections over many years, but it is believed 1950 was the last time. That was when Sanford Broadbent, the town clerk, just put the box away after the election was over and kept it safe.

That date is a pretty good guess as the last ballots cast in the box were still inside it and those were dated 1950.

That year, there was a race for a township board seat, Logan Grant was facing Stanley F. Wiezycki to a three year term. (Grant won) S. C. Broadbent was the only one running for the town clerk in 1950, but the ballot provided a place for a write-in candidate should the voter decide not to vote for Broadbent. The "S. C." stood for Sanford Carroll and he was RE-elected. Sanford had first been elected to the Linwood Town Board in 1912 and he continued to serve the board he was consistently reelected to

including the election in 1950. When Sanford passed away in 1953, it left the Town Board without a Broadbent on it for the first time since 1912 and then only until Sanford's son, Carroll, was elected at the next election. Carroll served until 1962.



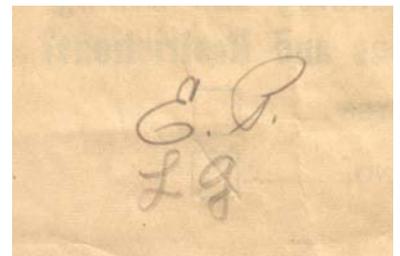
The ballot box with its key.

The only candidate for the Linwood constable was L.J. Valez. Constables were the immediate law enforcement in the community and they were called upon until the Sheriff or his deputies could arrive in case of emergency.

The ballot also carried a referendum question on building and zoning restrictions in the township.

The back of each ballot has initials from the election judges proving it was a valid ballot properly cast and counted.

The ballot box stayed in the Broadbent home until it was recently donated to ACHS so it could be preserved and its history shared.



The election judge initials on the back of one of the ballots.

1950 OFFICIAL BALLOT

LINWOOD TOWNSHIP
ANOKA COUNTY, MINNESOTA

TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 1950

Put a cross mark (X) opposite the name of the candidate for whom you wish to vote.

Vote For One	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For Supervisor for 3 years— LOGAN GRANT
	<input type="checkbox"/>	For Supervisor for 3 years— STANLEY F. WIEZYCKI
	<input type="checkbox"/>	For Supervisor for 3 years—
Vote For One	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For Town Clerk for 2 years— S. C. BROADBENT
	<input type="checkbox"/>	For Town Clerk for 2 years—
Vote For One	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For Constable for 2 years— L. J. VALEZ
	<input type="checkbox"/>	or Constable for 2 years—
Vote For One	<input type="checkbox"/>	For Justice of Peace for 2 years—

Shall the Town Board of Supervisors Adopt Building and Zoning Regulations and Restrictions?

YES

NO

One of the ballots cast in the 1950 election in Linwood.



The ballot box with its lid closed as voters would have seen it.

(Continued from page 1)

Lydia was the superintendant of a Sabbath school at the time, but that was not enough to hold her in their home on the farm. Noted in her records is a single line that may explain at least one reason why Lydia gave up the comforts of her home to follow the army: "By request of Captain John S. Cady." Cady was probably very well known in the small community, one reason why he was so successful in raising the company. Did he ask Lydia to be the Company's nurse because she had some special skills or because he knew her and or Charles? Lydia didn't tell us.

Applying to become a nurse was not as easy as it may seem, even if the captain requested her. Lydia had to make a petition to General Pope, then at Fort Snelling in St. Paul, for permission to follow the company. Whether Pope cared that his action might invite other women is not known, but he is noted as only giving Lydia verbal permission to accompany the regiment. No paper trail of his permission would haunt General Pope should his actions be questioned.

This took several months and it was December before Lydia set out across the frozen expanse of western Minnesota to join her company. She arrived at what was called the Chippewa Agency along the Crow Wing River and was immediately sent to the post hospital. The hospital was simply a room at the agency building and it was filled with 13 men suffering with the measles. The disease spread rapidly through the post until every man who had not previously had the measles came down with them. Lydia nursed them all and when the outbreak was over, she sent a message to Captain Cady, "All is well, not a man lost." Lydia's care was credited for cheating death out of its harvest from the outbreak.

Beyond nursing, Lydia participated in the "mental and moral improvement" of the men of Company A as directed by Captain Cady. He sent for books and established classes in several branches of learning in addition to Bible studies and prayer meetings. Lydia was a constant participant.

When the Company was ordered to move to Fort Ripley near Little Falls in April of 1863, Lydia followed. From her position at the rear of the company, she gathered all of the "footsore and sick soldiers who had dropped out of the ranks" and continued to work in the post hospital at Fort Ripley.

Captain Cady was killed in a confrontation with the Dakota

Indians in the summer of 1863 and the leadership of Company A went to another Anokan, Marcus Butterfield. Lydia continued to serve as nurse when the company was ordered to Fort Abercrombie in the Dakota Territory that next winter. By spring, her health was nearly broken and she needed a rest. Lydia returned to Anoka and remained there as the company continued their patrol of the frontier and struggles with the Dakota Indians. In the fall, the regiment went South, but Lydia did not accompany them. She waited in Anoka for Charles to return.

When the war was over and Charles came back to her, Lydia had to draw on every nursing skill she had as he was very ill. Many believed he would not survive, but Lydia's care kept Charles alive until 1886, though he was declared an invalid and was not able to work for years before his death.

Even before Charles passed away, Lydia joined the local chapter of the Woman's Relief Corps (WRC). This organization was involved with seeking care for veterans, their widows and orphans. It was to be an organization to which Lydia would give many years of her life and substantial amounts of her own money.

She remarried in 1887 to another veteran, Captain James George, and since he was very involved with the veterans organizations, Lydia continued her deep involvement with the WRC. She was elected president of the Minneapolis Chapter, then she was elected as the WRC Department head for Minnesota where she traveled through the state visiting chapters and checking on their progress. It was while involved with the WRC that Lydia took up the cause of pensions for Army nurses. Throughout the 1880s, this issues was debated at local, state and national levels, but by 1892, Lydia—and all former Army nurses--were able to apply for their own pensions as army nurses.

Lydia's second husband died in 1891 and several years later, she married again, another veteran by the name of Rufus Whitmore. Their marriage only lasted a few years before Rufus, too, passed away.

When Lydia died in 1914, the Minneapolis newspaper carried a lengthy obituary for her, noting many of her accomplishments. It concluded with a bit of prose that read: "Not dead, but only promoted. She has entered the Order above and there, 'neath the smiles of the Master, she will finish her labor of love." Lydia was laid to rest in Elk River's Orono Cemetery beside her first love, Charles Hancock.

2011 Holiday Ornament from Andover

City officials and community members from Andover will present the 2011 Holiday Ornament for the County on Tuesday evening, December 6, 2011, at 7:00 p.m., at the Anoka County History Center.

This holiday season is the 16th Annual "Anoka County Holiday Tree" celebration at the Anoka County Historical Society. Just as states are invited to provide the National Christmas Tree in Washington, each community in Anoka County is invited in turn to provide an ornament for the County Tree. Each ornament reflects a unique aspect of its community, along with the year of presentation. The Andover ornament will not be shown to anyone until the ornament is presented on December 6th.

The evening will also feature a fun history talk about the history of COOKIES! Bring a few of your favorite cookies to share while we all learn (and sample) some of the stories behind the sweet treats of the season! The lobby holiday exhibit will also look at holiday baking and all that goes with it.

Come see the Andover ornament, bring cookies to share in our Holiday Cookie History, and have a great time!



The 2010 ornament from Lexington.

Thank You to Sock Hop Supporters

We had a great time at the ACHS Sock Hop in Columbia Heights on Friday, October 7. While the total amount of money raised doesn't compare some of our fundraisers from several years ago, we are still happy to announce that we raised over \$6,500 for the evening.

About 100 people attended, bid on great silent auction packages, danced to the music of the 1950s and '60s



2011 ACHS Hula Hoop Champ, Sophie Clark.

as performed by the TC Cats, and enjoyed the venue that is Murzyn Hall. We crowned our second ACHS Sock Hop Hula Hoop Champion when Sophie Clark outlasted four other competitors.

Given the current financial climate, we are grateful for all of the support we do get. In past years we typically raised over \$4,000 for each event with just sponsorships alone. This year, we welcomed Northeast Bank and Community Pride Bank on as sponsors, but were unable to secure others. We appreciate the contributions of this year's sponsors.

We couldn't have made it happen without them.



Guests bid on silent auction items at the Sock Hop.

We continued to receive terrific support from local businesses, organizations, and friends in putting together a great silent auction. The contributors are listed on page 7 of the newsletter, but it's worth noting many of these contributors are small, local businesses. They are your friends and neighbors and are making an effort to support our mission to preserve local history by donating to our event. They receive lots of similar requests and simply cannot grant them all. It is very gratifying to receive their support. Please support them as well.

Members of the ACHS board will be getting together in November to discuss what we will do for a fundraising event next year. If you have any thoughts on the matter, please call the History Center at 763-421-0600.

There is still room for your name!

Write Your Name in History (On a quilt!)

And benefit the Anoka County History Center

Just as was done during the Civil War, you can sign your name to a replica Sanitary Commission style quilt that will be raffled off to raise money for keeping history.

Signature patches are for sale and with each patch, the signer receives a raffle ticket to win the completed quilt, the drawing held in 2012.

Signature Patches

Signers can choose between three sizes of plain muslin patches:

2" x 2" Patch — \$3.00 donation

Half Diamond — \$10.00 donation

Multiple signatures allowed

9" x 9" Patch — \$15.00 donation

Multiple signatures allowed

Raffle Tickets

Tickets are \$1.00 each
or 6 for \$5.00.

The winner will be
drawn in 2012.

All proceeds benefit the
Anoka County
Historical Society



*There are some squares left—even one
right next to Governor Dayton's signature!
Get your square before they're gone!*

Up To Date

Announcements and News

♦Just a reminder that the November 10 and December 8 ACHS Board of Directors meetings will be at 6:00 p.m. All meetings are held at the History Center. Board meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome.

Greetings Volunteers!

By Elaine Koehn

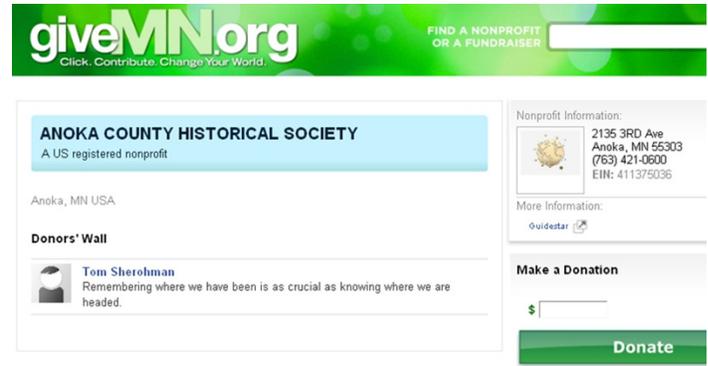
Autumn is winding down and the Ghosts of Anoka tour hit record numbers! More than 65 tours were scheduled for October alone, with an additional 21 since May for a total of 81 Ghost Tours this year! Our incredible volunteer tour guides have made it all possible: June Anderson, Jeri Bates, Darlene Bearl, Wayne Chevalier, Sara Given, Gary Greb, Faith Kammerdiener, Maria King, Roxy Orcutt, Lynne Rickert, Dan Schink, Shana Schmitz, Teri and Chris Ningen, Ann Steen, and Joni Strandquest. Because tours average 24-26 people each, it is clear that the Ghosts of Anoka tours are an effective outreach! A heartfelt thank you goes out to each tour guide!

I would also like to extend a special thank you to Rose Marie Stiener and Carol Dordan for alterations on costumes for the tour guides.

Tour guides also helped out with the Cemetery tours—of which there were eight! Maria King, June Anderson, Pam Sevenbergen, Shana Schmitz and Madonna Mochinski portrayed living characters, with Todd and Maria also leading tours.

Upcoming events include the Dolly and Me Teas scheduled for Thursday, December 1st at 6:00pm; Saturday, Dec. 3rd at 10am and 2:00pm. The teas will repeat on Thursday, December 15th 6:00pm and Saturday, December 17th at 10am and at 2:00pm. We will explore the 1930's through the eyes of a young child growing up at a time when the Great Depression was bearing down on all. Little girls will decorate an angel ornament for the holidays and then have tea and dessert. Finally, the girls will sign up for the drawing of two outfits for their dolls. This is made possible by the volunteers who have sewn and donated the outfits for that purpose.

Finally, I would like to welcome our new volunteers; Andrew Pixley, Rebecca Johnson, Anna Kirchner, Carolyn Waataja, Madonna Mochinski, and Roxy Orcutt. Thank you for sharing your time and talent at ACHS.



Minnesota's "Give to the Max Day" Returns on November 16

Minnesota's nonprofit organizations ask Minnesotans to give to their favorite charities at GiveMN.org during the third annual "Give to the Max Day" on Nov. 16, with hopes of raising as much money as possible for nonprofit organizations in 24 hours (starting at midnight on Nov. 16 through midnight on Nov. 17).

The Anoka County Historical Society is a part of "Give to the Max Day" and we are encouraging everyone to support the preservation of local history by making a special donation on November 16 through the Give MN program. GiveMN has raised more than \$33 million for more than 5,000 nonprofits since its 2009 debut. Last year's "Give to the Max Day" drew an astounding 42,596 donors. As a result, more than \$10 million was raised for the 3,663 participating nonprofit organizations.

"We are proud that Minnesotans come together on this giving holiday to show their support for the nonprofit and education institutions that work within our communities," said Dana Nelson, executive director of GiveMN.org. "Minnesota is truly a leader in giving, and Give to the Max Day has shown our unparalleled generosity to the world."

GiveMN offers several incentives to encourage nonprofit organization and donor participation in "Give to the Max Day." There is a new leaderboard structure with three tiers of prize grants. A \$15,000, \$10,000 and \$7,500 prize grant will be awarded to the top three nonprofit organizations (colleges and universities excluded) which receive the most dollars during "Give to the Max Day." \$5,000 prize grants will be awarded to nonprofits in 4th through 10th place on the main leaderboard.

Throughout the event, an individual donor will be randomly chosen every hour to have an additional \$1,000 given to the charity that received the donor's original donation. In addition to the 24 "Golden Tickets"—\$1,000 prize grants given randomly every hour—one \$10,000 "Grand Golden Ticket" will be randomly given at 11:59 p.m.

Contributions & New Members — Thank you

(All lists are current to October 31, 2011)

DONATIONS

Lyle & Jerene Anderson
Community Pride Bank
Bruce Gengnagel
Mary Ann Hoffman
Sandra Karasch
Robert Koehler & Virginia Koehler-Barnier
Becky Loader & Michael Ritchie
Charlene Moran
Glenda Meixell
Robert & Marveen Minish
Donna Smith
Eugene & Monica Swieringa

EMPLOYEE MATCH

Ameriprise Financial/Dan Frank

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Earlene Solmonson
From Gwen Quick

ARTIFACT DONORS

Coon Rapids Historical Commission
Dave Drevdahl
Lucille Elrite
Bill & Leann Rock
Bernice Salo
Rosalyn Sroga
Barbara Broadbent Ulvin
Mary Vavrosky

NEW MEMBERS

Teresa Adams, Monona, WI
Bruce Gengnagel, Cottage Grove
Launa Johnson, Anoka
Paula Mohr, Anoka
Charlene Moran, Anoka
Kevin & Erin Steadland, Andover

IN-KIND DONATIONS

(SOCK HOP)

All About Cats and Dogs
AmericInn Wabasha
Jan Anderson
Marilyn Anderson
Anoka Coin, Stamp & Watch
Anoka County Parks and Recreation
Anoka Hennepin Credit Union
Anonymous
Dan Baker
Billy's Bar & Grill (Anoka)
Billy's Neighborhood Bar & Grill
(St. Francis)

BOB FM

Casa Rio
Casey's General Store
Chema Malu
Chili's
Shirley Christenson
Columbia Heights Sister City Program
Connexus Energy
Costco Wholesale
County Market (Andover)
County Market (St. Francis)
Dahlheimer Beverages
El Toro
Federal Cartridge
Fifth Avenue Dental
Financial One Credit Union
Gould's Diamonds & Jewelry
Grand Casino
Green Valley Greenhouse
Hair Designers of Blaine
Hakanson Anderson
Ham Lake Lanes
Mike Hartley
Heights Bakery
Heights Theater
Jam Hops Gymnastic, Dance and Cheer
Donald Johnson
Mike and Maria King

Krista Artista
Orville Lindquist
Little Havana Tobacco
Lyric Arts Company of Anoka
Todd Mahon and Nicole Theis-Mahon
Mansetti's Pizza and Pasta
Minnesota Twins Baseball Club
Mobile Entertainment
Muller Family Theaters
Napa Auto Parts
National Eagle Center
Noodles and Company
Nowthen Historical Power Association
Oliver Kelley Farm-Minnesota Historical Society
Party Papers
Al and Betty Pearson
Paul and Mary Pierce
Red Ox Café
The Refuge Golf Club
Round Barn Potting Company
Rum River Hills
Rum River Inn
Running Aces Harness Track
St. Francis True Value
Shorewood Bar and Grill
SportClips
Ray Steinke
Shannon Steven
Subway
Lael Theis
Sandy Thorsen
Catherine Vesley
Bart and Ellen Ward
Vickie Wendel
Terry Yackel

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

Henry (Red) Johnson, who died on August 7, 2011. Red was a long, long time member of ACHS, past volunteer, and donor, with great history of his own that he freely shared.

Quinley Free, who died August 8, 2011. Quin was a long-time member of ACHS and a regular attendee at our events for many years.

Marjorie Strouse, who died September 6, 2011. Marjorie was and ACHS member and shared many of her artifacts and stories.

Alice Wagner, who died September 6, 2011. Alice was a world traveler, active community member and loyal ACHS member.

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Coming Events

November 12, 2:00 pm

Tastes and Sound of Minnesota in the Civil War

(Rum River Library, 4201 6th Avenue N., Anoka.) Join us in a lively program that looks at Minnesota (and Anoka County's) role in the Civil War. This program looks at the adventures, disappointments, fears and daily life of troops during these troubling years and will provide a basic understanding of the Civil War from a Minnesota point of view. FREE

November 23, Noon — 1:00 pm

Celebrating PIE!

(Anoka County History Center and Library.) Bring your favorite holiday pie for all to sample as we share stories and history about this holiday favorite! Many people will be baking pies for the big meal the next day; so bake one early, take a break and join us for some fun history about pies.. This is a roundtable discussion where everyone is welcome to share their stories about PIES. FREE

December 1, 3, 15 & 17

Dolly and Me Christmas Tea

(Anoka County History Center and Library.) Come to the History Center for a tea party! We will explore the 1930's through the eyes of a young child growing up at a time when the Great Depression was bearing down on all. Little girls will decorate an angel ornament for the holidays. Girls, their dolls, and the grown-ups share a tea party to wrap up the event. *Reservations required.* Tickets for girls are \$7, adults are \$10—and dolls attend free! Thursday teas start at 6:00 pm, Saturday teas are at 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.

December 6, 7:00 p.m.

Holiday Ornament Presentation & Cookie History

(Anoka County History Center and Library.) Join ACHS for the 16th annual Holiday Ornament presentation featuring the new ornament from the City of Andover. Bring a few of your favorite holiday cookies to share while we talk about the history of holiday cookies (and eat some!). There'll be a new lobby exhibit featuring cookies and all that goes with holiday baking! It's a great way to kick off the holiday season! See page 4 for more details. FREE

December 10, 10:30-1:30

A Civil War Christmas

(Rum River Library, 4201 6th Avenue N., Anoka.) What was this celebration like in Anoka County in the 1860s? Did they put up a tree in their homes? Did they send gifts to the soldiers serving in the Civil War? Come to this special event to learn more about one of America's favorite holidays with hands-on activities and lots of holiday history. FREE