



History Center News

Newsletter of the Anoka County Historical Society

Vol. 43 No. 1

January — February 2013

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Presidents and Personal Visits

By Vickie Wendel, Program Manager

“Good morning. This is the White House calling. We’d like to know if there has ever been a presidential visit to Anoka County before?”

That was hardly a phone call the staff at ACHS expected and was not one for which there was a ready answer. In this instance, the White House was calling ACHS for background on a speech Bush would give at the National Sports Center in Blaine.

Stories abound about President Grant coming to visit someone named Blesi, a soldier from Champlin, MN, whom Grant had met and befriended during the Civil War. Other stories told of President Roosevelt touring Anoka’s Federal Cartridge during WWII. Still other stories said presidents had visited on whistle stop campaigns on the tracks that have run through the county since 1864.

But these were stories and without at least some evidence, not history, so in honor of Presidents Day, we decided to do some research on presidential visits to the county and ask a few questions about US presidents to see what you know!

If President Grant ever visited his wartime friend in Champlin, it was kept a secret. While there were Blesi family members who served in the Civil War and returned to this area, no proof of a connection to Grant has been found.

In 1942, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt visited the Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant (TCAAP) in Arden Hills. It is documented that Charles Horn from Federal Cartridge met the President that day, but it is unclear if FDR ever visited Horn’s plant in Anoka. It would seem that if ever FDR came to Anoka County, it would have been during this visit, but we are still looking for proof.

The only documented time a sitting President of the United States has visited Anoka County was in 2004 when George W. Bush came while campaigning. He was on his way to big campaign rally in Blaine and we have excellent

documentation of that event. His entourage also made a quick stop in the city of Anoka where President Bush shook hands with his supporters, had lunch at the little café in the lower lever of the Old Anoka Post Office Building, and then was whisked away to Blaine. ACHS staff was there to take pictures.



President Bush at the corner of Third and Main in Anoka, September, 2004.

History does not always give us clear answers to questions. Research can give us clues and leave tantalizing hints, but sometimes, it raises as many questions as it answers—or more—and that can be both frustrating and fun!

So how well do you know the presidents? Try these questions—

1. *A series of postage stamps came out in 1938 featuring all the former Presidents except Herbert Hoover. Why was there no stamp printed for him?*
2. *How soon after becoming President did Harry Truman get briefed on the secret development of the atomic bomb?*
3. *Iowa-born Herbert Hoover stands forever in U.S. history book because of his place of birth, why?*
4. *Who was the only U.S. President to be born on the 4th of July?*
5. *Which amendment to the Constitution provides that no one may be elected President more than twice?*



FDR chatting with workers at the TCAAP in 1942.

See page 7 for the answers.

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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

Plan for ACHS in Your Will

If you read the back pages of *History Center News*, perhaps you read through the list of recent donors and new members to the Anoka County Historical Society that are listed in each issue. In this month's issue you can see a listing for a bequest from the estate of Jim Johansen. Donations from bequests are directed to ACHS's small, but growing endowment.

Jim Johansen, and his wife Jan, were long time supporters of ACHS and its efforts to preserve and share the county's history. He was the former owner and operator of the Johansen Bus Company in Anoka for many years and was well-known for his support of the community.

The Historical Society is working to increase the size of its endowment to ensure our ability to continue to produce nationally and locally recognized programs and to care for our rich collection of artifacts that share the story of Anoka County's history. There is a great need for us to not only diversify our funding sources, but to strengthen and increase our revenue outside of our support from Anoka County, which has provided 60-70% of our operating revenue in recent years.

Donations to our endowment, whether they be through planned giving or donations like many of you have been giving in response to the letter we sent out in December, are great ways to support our mission to share Anoka County's history. Gifts to the endowment are restricted and the principal from these investments will continue to provide revenue for years to come.

As you plan your will or trust, remember the importance of our mission. We need the support of the entire community to continue our excellent programming. If you value what we do, please remember us when you make plans for your estate.

From the President...

By Al Pearson

It's newsletter time again and to get some ideas, I went looking through my 1982 *Anoka County History* book. I found a poem written by a neighbor girl I went to grade school with. We went to the one room District 28 School in Ramsey. When it was no longer used for the school, it became the Ramsey Town Hall. That's the way a lot of people remember it today.

The name of the poem is *Anoka I Remember*.

*There's a place in my heart
Filled up with memories
I shall not forget where I spent
Many happy days as a kid.
Where the Mississippi & Rum River
meet.
The old Mill pond where fisherman
greet.*

*My old school chums at District 28
A few of them I'd like again to meet
Edith Patch who was so sweet
She used to take us down town to eat.
And Mr. Delawe I remember, too
For all that good bar-be-que.*

*I remember Mr. Bye on Commencement
Day
He shook my hand and I walked away.*

*The Cheerful Chuggers, that we were.
The 4H's Club, the County Fair
Even Maynard Speece was there.*

*Lots more things flash through my mind
As I leave my childhood behind
Although I've been to old Mexico
And Canada where the cold winds blow
To the east and through the west,
Those early days were the very best
So, my old friends and teachers, too—
Anoka—I remember you.*

For those of us that are older, this is what we remember about rural Anoka.

Joyce, the author, was from a large family that was always helping people in the neighborhood. It's great to see this local talent. We don't need to depend on TV or radio to be entertained.

The Story of an Artifact

Model 1859 McClellan Saddle

The history of this artifact starts with a young Army captain sent to Europe to observe during the Crimean War (1853-1856). Captain George B. McClellan brought back a great deal of information and suggested many changes in the U.S. Army because of what he had seen in European military tactics and equipment.

The saddle he designed and developed was influenced by what McClellan had observed. His first design was presented to the Army in 1857, but there were a number of other saddles proposed as well. After much study and suggestions of design changes, the Army adopted the 1859 Model of the McClellan saddle. With only minor changes, the McClellan saddle was used by the U.S. Army Cavalry until the last mounted units were disbanded in WWII, nearly a century after they initially adopted the design. Special ceremonial units in the Army still use McClellan saddles yet today.

Some of the positive attributes of the design included its sturdiness despite its light weight. It gave good support to both the rider and the horse and was relatively simple in design. A simple design made for easier care and repair in the field if something broke. Still, one of the most important reasons for adopting the design in the Army's eyes was the price. McClellan saddles were less expensive to produce than most other designs available at the time.

The cost factor of the McClellan saddle was one of the reasons it remained in service for so long. There were recommendations to replace the McClellan saddle many times, but none were accepted by the Army. Cost of production, not to mention the huge stockpile of saddles leftover after the Civil War, and a stiff resistance to change contributed to the long usage of the McClellan saddle.

George McClellan was career Army and rose to the rank of general during the Civil War. He commanded the Army of the Potomac, the portion of the army that fought in the eastern theatre of the Civil War, until his dismissal by President Lincoln in late 1862. In 1864, McClellan was nominated as the presidential candidate for the Democratic Party. He lost that election quite soundly to the incumbent Abraham Lincoln.

The saddle in the ACHS collection has a direct military connection and a significant Minnesota story. It was used by Sergeant Nathan Curial. Curial was a member of Company A of the 8th Minnesota Infantry formed in the

late summer of 1862. Nearly all of Company A were men from Anoka County and they probably had expected to be sent south to fight the Confederates when they enlisted.

Instead, Minnesota's other war demanded attention. The conflict with the Dakota Indians began in mid-August and the 8th Infantry was sent to patrol Minnesota's western frontier. For a time, Company A was assigned to patrol the roads between Princeton and Anoka, but it was while they were near Paynesville that their captain, John S. Cady, was killed by Dakota Indians. Eventually, the 8th Minnesota Infantry was involved in the fighting at Killdeer Mountain in what today is South Dakota. Once the Dakota Conflict was over, the 8th Infantry was sent South and saw fighting at Murfreesboro, Kinston, and were present at the surrender of Confederate General Johnston's army in North Carolina.

Wait...Nathan Curial served in the INFANTRY and this is a CALVARY saddle.



It was not uncommon for soldiers during the Civil War to serve outside their assigned roles, infantry given horses and acting as cavalry or cavalry dismounting and working as infantry was most common. Also, officers, even some non-commissioned officers such as Sergeant Curial, rode horses as the rest of the men marched. The long distances in western Minnesota also made it more practical for men to ride rather than march.

It is not known how this particular saddle managed to remain in Anoka County. Nathan Curial went south with the 8th Minnesota and returned to his home in Anoka when the war was over. He married and had one son. The house Nathan built after the war is still standing on Third Avenue in Anoka. He died in 1897 and was buried in Forest Hill Cemetery in Anoka.

What happened next is unknown, but in

1962, Charles Wickstrom donated the saddle to ACHS. Charles was the son of another Civil War veteran, Andrew Wickstrom, so our best guess is that the two veterans knew each other as they both belonged to the Anoka Grand Army Post. Perhaps Curial gave his saddle to Wickstrom as Wickstrom was younger than Curial and eventually, Wickstrom's son inherited the saddle. We won't ever know, but when Charles brought the saddle to ACHS (he was a member of our board of directors at the time) he provided the story of the saddle being owned by Nathan Curial.

This historic saddle will be part of the upcoming exhibit on the Civil War, set to open in April.

Preservation and Recycling Codes

What do recycling codes on plastic bottles have to do with preservation? Everything, if you are trying to find a good, archival material in which to store an artifact.

Plastic tubs may not seem archival at first glance, but depending on your situation, they might be a very good preservation materials. They can also be the worse possible solution, so the key is knowing what kind of plastic was used to make the tub. The best way is to look for the recycling code. All plastic containers are required to have a recycling code that will tell you what kind of plastic it is made from.



Code #1 is also known as PETE and it polyethylene terephthalate. A good example of this type of plastic is found in peanut butter jars.

PETE is an excellent oxygen barrier, the reason it is used to store sensitive foods such as carbonated drinks and peanut butter. Containers made of PETE are considered archival and a good place to store items that you want to prevent from tarnishing, such as silver. You can't fit Grandma's silver teapot into a pop bottle, but those silver spoons may fit in an empty peanut butter jar.



Code #2 is HDPE High density polyethelene.



Code #4 is LDPE low density polyethelene.



Code #5 is Polypropylene. Most of the Rubbermaid/Sterlite tubs on the market today are made from polypropylene and this is your best choice in preservation materials if you are using a plastic tub. Codes #1, #2, and #4 are all acceptable, but #5 is best for safe storage of prized possessions.

Notice that there is no #3 listed. That is because #3 is plastic that contains some form of vinyl and vinyl is NOT archival. Vinyl can off-gas (think new car smell) and cause damage to other objects stored near them. Polymers within vinyl are prone to "migrating," meaning they can shed oils. Vinyl can react with other materials and "melt" both the vinyl and the material it contacts. Stay away from anything vinyl if you are working for preservation.



When should you use a plastic tub to preserve something? That is a difficult question and must be answered based on the use in that particular place.

Tubs are especially good if you are in an area that is prone to flooding. A plastic tub will keep its contents dry in a flood, but it can also keep too much moisture in and create mold. It is safest not to use a plastic tub for storage in an area where the humidity is high. Plastic tubs are excellent insect barriers and are more resistant to rodents than cardboard archival boxes. Still, if there is a fire, plastic tubs will melt and ruin the contents even if they do not burn.

No matter which kind of storage box you choose, it is very important that you open it several times a year to inspect the contents. Look for mold, mildew, insect or rodent damage. Let the contents get a little fresh air by spreading them out for an afternoon. Besides making it easier to inspect the items, it should also be a pleasant exercise. After all, you are preserving this stuff because it means something to you, right? If it doesn't, why are you keeping it? If it does, inspecting it is a great time to enjoy it.

Don't forget to write down what the object means to you and keep the story with the object. If it's precious to you, be sure the next generation knows why to help them treasure it as much as you do.

(This information is drawn from the book Saving Stuff, by Don Williams, senior conservator of the Smithsonian Institution.)



The 2012 ornament from Ramsey.

2012 Holiday Ornament from Ramsey

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, Ramsey City Councilperson Jason Tossey presented ACHS with a hand-painted glass ball on December 4. The ornament depicts the District 28 School building, built in 1892 and used as a school until 1949. After that, since the township did not have a town hall, they began using the school as their town hall. The building served as Ramsey's township, then city, hall until 1978 when a new Ramsey City Hall was completed. It is a fitting commemoration for the ornament painted by Ramsey resident, Jean Marie.

There are only four 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, but now there are just four bows left to replace with ornaments.

Announcements and News

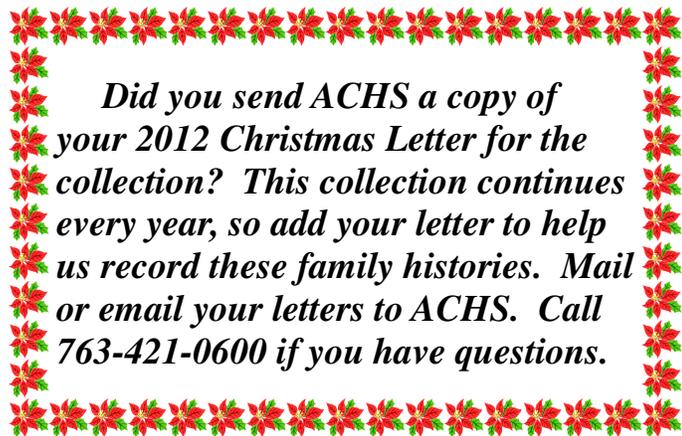
◆Just a reminder that the January 10 and February 14 ACHS Board of Directors meetings will be at 6:00 p.m. All meetings are held at the History Center. Board meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome.

ACHS Board Elections in March

Have you thought about how you might help the business end of keeping local history? Or how your talents and contacts might benefit the Anoka County Historical Society? The annual election of board officers for ACHS is coming in March and we are looking for candidates willing to serve on the governing body of our organization. The board meets once a month, but is active in many other aspects of the museum, outreach, library, and archives.

This is a wonderful opportunity to find out what happens “behind-the-scenes” at the History Center in addition to the satisfaction of serving local history.

Call Executive Director Todd Mahon to find out more about the Board’s vital role at ACHS. 763-421-0600



Did you send ACHS a copy of your 2012 Christmas Letter for the collection? This collection continues every year, so add your letter to help us record these family histories. Mail or email your letters to ACHS. Call 763-421-0600 if you have questions.

It's Your History

Have you been watching the monthly cable show from ACHS? If you are not in the QuadCities cable service area or one of the other cable channels in the county who carries the show, you can watch it online. Go to the ACHS website, (www.ac-hs.org) and click on the link to It's Your History located under our name and picture box. That will take you directly to the show.

Dear Volunteers by Elaine Koehn

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for a great year. Volunteer hours are up over a thousand from last year and I still have not received hours from all of you.

Our Appreciation event will be held sometime during National Volunteer Appreciation Week, April 21-27, 2013, however, our appreciation of our volunteers is a 24/7 365 kind of thing. People volunteer for different reasons, ours have chosen ACHS for their love of research and history and some, like our board, volunteer because they want input in the direction ACHS is moving. Their leadership and devotion keeps us focused on our mission.

Several photo scanning projects have kept some of our volunteers busy. We have Pam Fredrick, John Evens, Sandy Conner, Dave VenHuisen and Monique Walraven scheduled every day of the week on the volunteer computer and starting after the first of the year we will add Amber Blake.

Shirley Christianson, Marlys Talbot and Terrie O'Connell understand the importance of a well-organized reference library and work hard every week to make it so. They are currently going through the entire collection to organize and be sure the books are shelved correctly.

A new volunteer, Lynn Wikstrom, is creating an index for old plat maps to help researchers find family property quicker and genealogy volunteers, Linda Mundle, Darlene Levens, and Lucille Elrite have volunteered in the library helping patrons faithfully for many years.

Sometimes volunteers come so often we begin to think of them as staff. Cheryl Hengescht can be seen working on manuscript files or any project that comes her way nearly every day of the week. We rely heavily on her and so appreciate everything she does for ACHS.

Intern Karah Hawkinson came for college credit and never left. She works closely with Vickie and has been a wonderful addition to our volunteer family. A classmate of Karah's, Stephen Barrett, is also volunteering on a special project for Vickie.

Vickie has a way of recruiting family members to volunteer; her four month old grandson, Tristan, is our youngest recruit. He volunteered in period correct baby clothing at the Civil War Christmas program at Circle Pines City Hall on December 15th and was a big hit.

In addition, too many volunteers to name write articles, assist in programs like the Home and Garden Tour, Anoka County Fair, parades, cemetery tours, and events around the county. Some of you have been doing this for ten years or more and will be invited in May to a special luncheon for our volunteers who belong to the Ten Plus Club.

I look forward to working with each of you in 2013 and wish you a very Happy and abundant New Year.

Don't ever question the value of volunteers. Noah's Ark was built by volunteers; the Titanic was built by professionals.

Contributions & New Members — Thank you

(All lists are current to December 26 2012)

DONATIONS

Julian Andersen
Jan & Jim Anderson
June Anderson
LaVerne Anderson
Lee Carlson
Darlene Caswell
Mary Chamberlain
Shirley Christenson
Mike & Mary Clark
Coon Rapids VFW Post #9625
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Beatrice Hoppenrath
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Peter Wojciechowski
Mildred Wolfe
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In Memory of Jean Pearson
From Dottie Carlson

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Suzanne Wilberg Karnitz
Orval & Joanne Leistico
Linwood Township
Dale Peterson
City of Ramsey
Pat Schwappach
Natalie Steffen

NEW MEMBERS

Donald LaCasse, Wyoming
Tracee Mahon, Eagan

SPECIAL BEQUEST

Jim Johansen



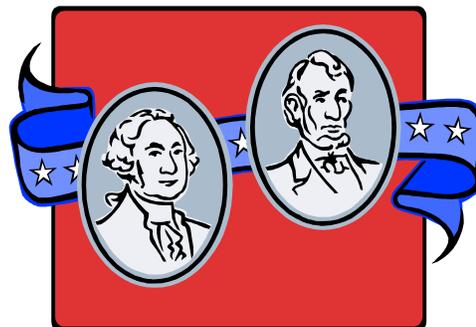
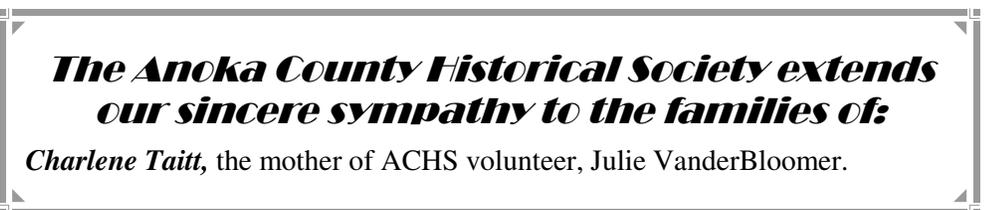
Give to the Max Day!

Were you part of this incredible day of giving? Non-profit organizations across Minnesota were the beneficiaries of more than \$13 million donated during this one special day of focused giving.

ACHS was the recipient for generous donations through the GiveMN website. This is the third year ACHS has been involved with the GiveMN and our members are catching on to how easy and secure donating online can be. Our donors were very generous!

We appreciate these special donations and value each of our friends who support us with their time, talents, and resources.

Remember you can donate to ACHS—or many other charities—anytime through the GiveMN website. It's easy, secure, and fast.



Answers to the Presidential Trivia Questions

1. Federal law forbade the likeness of any living person on a stamp.
2. Half an hour.
3. He was the first President born west of the Mississippi River.
4. Calvin Coolidge.
5. The 22nd Amendment.

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Coming Events

January – March

Staff Favorites — Lobby Exhibit

(Anoka County History Center and Library.) It is a great honor and responsibility for the staff at ACHS to care for the many artifacts and stories entrusted to us. Just like children, you shouldn't play favorites, but there is always something about one special artifact that stands out to someone. Come see which artifacts the staff has chosen as their favorites and find out why in this lighthearted lobby exhibit.

January 12, 2:00 pm

Fact, Folklore and FABRICation

(Rum River Library, 4201 6th Avenue N, Anoka) How much do we really know about the history and traditions of quilt making? So many stories have been handed down, but they don't always hold up under a close look at history. Find out some of the real stories behind what we all thought we knew about this history of quilt design and construction. This event is FREE and funded by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

February 23, 10:30 –1:30

Civil War “Winter Camp”

(Mississippi Library, 410 Mississippi Street, Fridley) Civil War reenactors share with visitors how soldiers from Anoka County spent their winter days in camp while the ladies will be busy with the Soldier's Aid Society. Lots of props and hands-on items make this a fun experience for all ages. This event is FREE and funded by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.



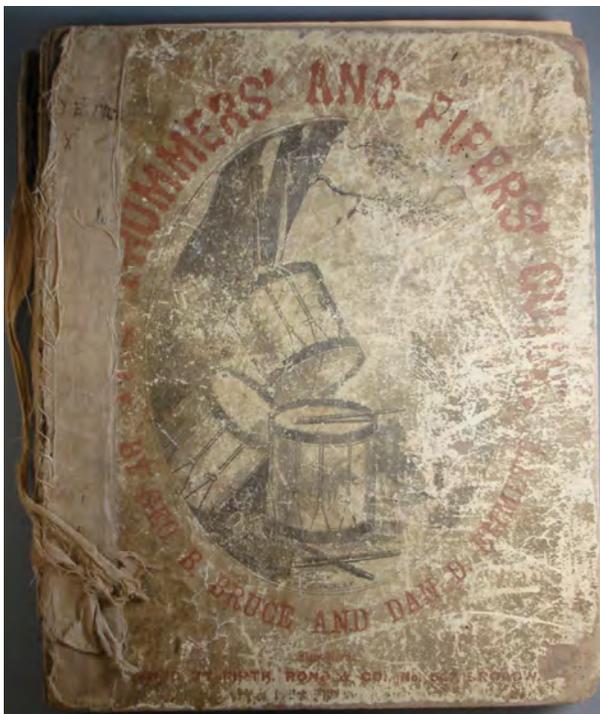
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Drum Beats and Fife Notes

By Vickie Wendel, Program Manager

The excitement in the voices coming from the ACHS library was almost tangible. Two men were pouring over a tattered and worn book, turning the pages ever so carefully. Each new page brought more discussion about what they were seeing and it was quite clear they were thrilled.



The cover of Josiah Clark's music book.

These library patrons were pouring over the pages of the Drummers' and Fifers' Guide, a book carried by an Anoka County man in the Civil War. The patrons were Civil War reenactors John Guthmann and Jim Moffett. They play fife and drum for the First Minnesota Infantry reenactors and now they were looking at the real thing, a book used by a Civil War musician.

They had looked at a lot of Civil War fife and drum music, but this book provided additional insight and answers about the availability of the book and its use. It was even more helpful in that its original owner, Josiah

Clark, had written it, adding his own notes to the wealth of information the book contained.

Josiah's book, with its worn cover and broken binding, suddenly had new life as these reenactors began playing and sharing the music once again some 150 years later.

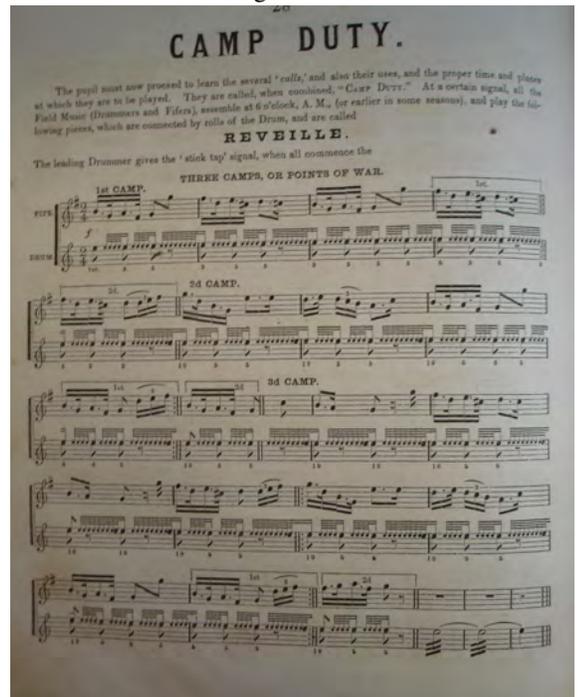
So who was the man who used this manual and saved it for researchers to find so many years later?

Josiah Clark was one of the very early settlers in what would become Anoka County. He first tried farming in Champlin, but moved to Anoka in 1856 where he worked at his trade of carpentry. He was noted as a "master builder." Anoka County was organized in preparation for statehood in 1858 and Josiah became the first probate judge in Anoka County after statehood.

The family included his wife, Louisa Brown, whom he had married on July 2, 1842, and three children. A fourth child, named Josiah W., was added to the family after arriving in Minnesota.

Continued on page 4

Music in the Drummers' and Fifers' Guide focused on call that acted as signals for the soldiers.



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From the Director...

By Todd Mahon

The Anoka County Historical Society has opened a Twitter account in an effort to reach more people and to help accomplish our mission to preserve and promote Anoka County's history. Certainly, we will use the social media site to promote upcoming events, programs, and more; but we're also going to use it to share Anoka County's history.

For those not familiar, Twitter allows a user to send out messages, called Tweets, composed of 140 characters or less. This can be a challenge for me. Heck, my opening paragraph is 284 characters—that's more than two Tweets alone. So, how are we going to use it to actually share about local history?

Well, we have an artifact in our collection that seems to be tailor made for Twitter, even if it was created 62 years ago. It is a report that features brief snippets from the dispatch log of the Anoka Police Department on a daily basis. Most of the entries are one to two sentences, and many are less than 140 characters in length.

The entries are a great window into the daily life of the small town of Anoka in the years following World War II. Like many communities at the time, the city was growing and the families were young. This is demonstrated in the types of calls made on a regular basis to Anoka police. It's hard not to read through the entries and laugh. Certainly, some of these were probably more serious than we can understand now, but here's a few that made me chuckle:

Feb. 19, 1951: Called up on North Street by Charles Ehlen. Kids throwing snowballs. Gone when we got there.

July 8, 1951: Called to State Hospital. Horse running around up there.

July 8, 1951: Radio call. Horses back at State Hospital

Obviously, there are a lot of entries that have no humor at all in them. Calls regarding missing patients at the State Hospital are somewhat regular; same for domestic abuse and drunk driving. Put it all together and you've got a picture of life in Anoka in 1951. (By the way, there seemed to have been a stray dog problem.) If you follow us on Twitter, you'll get selected samples Tweeted out on the same day that they occurred 62 years earlier. Find us at @AnokaCoHistory and look for the hashtag #AnokaPolice1951.

Oh, and speaking of social media, we're closing in on 500 Facebook friends. Stay up to date with ACHS and receive selected photos and bits of history by liking us on Facebook.

From the President...

By Al Pearson

When you were younger, did you ever think your parents were old fashioned, still in the horse and buggy days? My brother and I had taken agriculture in school, so we thought we were pretty smart about growing crops. We had each purchased a new tractor, a new four row corn planter and a four row cultivator to really show Dad how to farm and make money at it.

In the late 1940s and '50s, farmers used two row machines to plant their row crops. Our father, as did most farmers at that time, planted two kernels every forty inches. This would produce about 35 bushels to the acre.

My brother and I were going to show Dad how to make money growing corn. We said you had to plant thicker and fertilize heavy to produce one hundred bushels to the acre, not settle for thirty five and barely survive.

We told Dad that we would plant his corn, fertilize it heavy and have 100 bushel an acre production, but he said no. He would plant his own like he had always done.

So we planted ours as we were taught in school. In July, a representative from the fertilizer company came out to look at our crops and said they looked great, but they would need a lot of water because of how thick they were planted. Of course, we had no irrigation, and certainly no control over the weather (we didn't consider either one). Then it was a very dry August and September, so we had no ears on our corn. We had to chop it for silage or disk it down.

Dad on the other hand, had us put the corn picker on the tractor and pick his usual 35 bushels to the acre. While we were unloading his corn he asked, "Did you boys learn anything?"

We didn't count the cost before we jumped in. The plant population we used would only work with heavy soil or with irrigation on the sand land like we were farming. With the changing farming technology we didn't consider the importance of experience. So sometimes you have to learn life lessons the hard way.

History, too, has valuable lessons if we take the time to learn them.

The Story of an Artifact

The King Commemorative Beer Can *by Caitlin Frey, Administrator*

King was the Anoka Police Department's first trained police dog. He was two years old and 95 pounds when he started on the job in 1967. He could track down children and smell out suspects as well as have a "demoralizing effect on hoods."

King joined the force after the American Legion, Anoka Jaycees and Anoka Lions raised \$780 to purchase him for the department. King's handler was an officer named Andy Revering who had previous experience working with sentry dogs while in the U.S. Air Force. Andy and King went through 14 weeks of training at the National Police Dog Academy in Moline, Kansas. There, King learned to run down a fleeing suspect, stand guard for as long as required, and find lost people. He was also taught to be gentle with any approaching child.



King with Andy Revering's son, Eric.

As it happened, King had a soft spot for children. When he and Andy first visited a school, King waded through the crowd of students and patiently let the kids pat and hug him. Despite this easy-going nature, he was still an effective member of the police department as several stories show. One night, King tracked down a man who shot two people. The man was lying flat in a field of tall grass so that the officers couldn't find him, but he hadn't counted on King being on the job. King quickly located him and detained him until the officers could reach them. Another time King was called in to find a 10 year-old girl who had gone missing from her bed on a cold winter night. He followed her scent to a nearby park where she was sleeping under her blanket with her dolls.

King became a bit of a local celebrity due to his heroic service. In 1981, the Anoka County Humane Society was looking for a fundraiser and got in touch with Anoka Liquor Store Director Bill Swazlick about a commemorative beer can. As a City of Anoka employee, Bill was familiar with King, his exploits, and his popularity in the community. He requested permission from Andy and convinced the Humane Society to put King on the can as a crime prevention promotion and to raise money for the shelter animals.

While off-duty, King lived with the Revering family and was good friends with the Revering kids. He was known to spend his free hours pulling the neighborhood children around on a sled. Andy went on to become Anoka's Chief of Police, and King retired from the force in 1974. He passed away of old age a year later. In 1977, a new children's park in Anoka, called King Memorial Park, was dedicated in his memory. A cement statue of King was put in the park, but it quickly became worn by all the children playing on it and petting it. It was replaced by a bronze statue of King that stands in the park today.



A beer can commemorating King was made in 1981 as a benefit for the Anoka County Animal Humane Society.



The bronze statue of Anoka's first police dog in King Park in Anoka was placed after his death in 1977.

Drum Beats and Fife Notes

Continued from page 1

Minnesota had only been a state for three years when the Civil War began, but Josiah was not one of those rushing to enlist. He chose to wait until August 13, 1862. Perhaps part of the reason Josiah enlisted at that time was a new threat in Minnesota in the late summer of 1862. The Dakota Indians attacked white settlers in an effort to drive out the white man. The town of Anoka was considered a safe haven, but fear led to armed patrols on the streets.

Company A of the Eighth Minnesota Infantry was made up of men almost exclusively from Anoka County and Josiah became a musician for the company. It is unknown if his education at Maine's China Academy included music, but he did teach the first singing school in Anoka in the winter of 1855-56, making him the first teacher of vocal music north of St. Anthony. Before his military service was over, Josiah was promoted to the position of chief musician of the regiment and transferred to the non-commissioned staff.

The Eighth Minnesota did service within the state of Minnesota for the first year of its army service, often being split into small detachments and patrolling the frontier. By the summer of 1863, they were with General Henry Sibley and took part in the battle with the Dakota at Killdeer Mountain. The Eighth eventually went as far as the Badlands of South Dakota and the Yellowstone River before they returned to Minnesota and were sent South to fight Confederates.

In Tennessee, the Eighth was assigned to General George Thomas. Their first battle was near Murfreesboro, Tennessee, where they lost about 90 men in the fight. The regiment marched eastward and took part in the battle at Kingston, North Carolina, after which it was assigned to occupy Raleigh, North Carolina.

In late June, the regiment began the long series of trains, boats, and marches that brought them back to Minnesota where they were discharged at Fort Snelling. Josiah was with the regiment throughout its service and was discharged with the regiment on July 11, 1865.

Josiah returned to Anoka and his family after the war. In the fall of 1866, he was elected as the Anoka County treasurer, an office he held for four years. It was not the only public office he held in the coming

years. He served as a justice of the peace and clerk of the school board for many years.

By 1885, Josiah and Louise were living in Burns on an 80-acre farm. Their son, Josiah W., owned the 80 acres directly south of them.

Five years later, the 1900 census reflected a change, probably brought on by the steady advance of time. The two farms in Section 25 in Burns had merged and now Josiah W. was listed as the head of the household that included his parents, Josiah and Louisa.

In 1902, Josiah and Louisa retired from the farm and moved into the city of Anoka.

Josiah died on February 20, 1906, after a long illness. His lengthy obituary stated he was one of the "oldest residents of this city." Louisa and two of their children, Josiah W. and Georgia, survived him. The recounting of his life in the *Anoka County Union* ended with a tribute that read: *Mr. Clark was a fine man, beloved by all. A devout Christian, working for the advancement of this county, kindly, his memory will always be one that will be revered.*

Josiah was laid to rest in Oakwood Cemetery in Anoka and the cherished book of music was passed on to Josiah W., better known as Joe. How long Joe kept his father's book is unknown, but at some point the book was given to Ed Bates and then to Wilfred J. McFall.

In the spring of 1938, McFall presented the music book to the president of the four-year-old Anoka County Historical Society with a note explaining the ownership. With no place to keep artifacts, the book was likely stored in various members' homes and it may have been displayed in the case in the Anoka County Courthouse for a time, but it was never lost. The music book and its story were still here for researchers to find so many years later.

ACHS members and friends have the unique opportunity to hear music played from Josiah Clark's book and learn how music was used during the Civil War at our annual meeting on March 24, 1:00 pm at the Majestic Oaks Golf Club in Ham Lake. John Guthmann and Jim Moffett, the researchers mentioned at the beginning of this article, will be present in uniform to explain how music was used during the war and play the thrilling marital aires. You do need a reservation to attend. The reservation form is on page 5.

Civil War

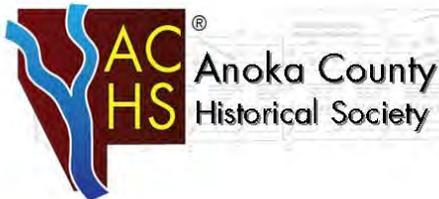
Experience the stirring sounds of traditional fife and drum music as it was played in the United States Army during the American Civil War.

Two long-time members of the state's premier Civil War reenacting unit, the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, will explain and demonstrate the instruments and various calls, signals and martial aires that were an essential part of the daily life of all Minnesota's volunteer soldiers 150 years ago.



This edition of Drummers and Fifers Guide was carried in the Civil War by Anoka County veteran Josiah Clark.

John Guthmann and Jim Moffet will recount how one book in the collection of Anoka County Historical Society has proven to be instrumental in the on-going musicology of this near-forgotten segment of American folk music.



Anoka County
Historical Society

History

at the
**Anoka County Historical Society's
Annual Meeting**

Sunday, March 24

1:00pm to 3:00pm

at

Majestic Oaks Golf Club, Ham Lake

\$20 to attend, \$17 for ACHS members. Includes meal and program.

More information: www.achhs.org.
Reservations required, call 763-421-0600.

2013 ACHS Annual Meeting Reservation Form

Attendee(s) Name: _____

Address: _____

City/ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

	Member	Non-Member
Turkey	_____ x \$17	_____ x \$20
Pasta	_____ x \$17	_____ x \$20
Ticket subtotal:	\$ _____	
Additional donation:	\$ _____	
TOTAL ENCLOSED:	\$ _____	

Return this form and your payment **by March 18, 2013** to:
Anoka County Historical Society 2135 Third Avenue North
Anoka, MN 55303

Announcements and News

◆Just a reminder that the March 14 and April 11 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.

ACHS Board Elections in March

The Anoka County Historical Society annual ballot is set for our board of directors. All members in good standing will receive a ballot in the mail in the next weeks. Please follow the voting instructions carefully as ballots improperly marked or returned cannot be counted.

This is your chance as a member of ACHS to help determine the leadership of the Board of Directors. This board sets policy and helps guide the organization, so their role is a very important one. Please return your ballot promptly so your voice is heard.

Look for us on Twitter!



The Anoka County Historical Society can now be found on Twitter. Look for us under the name @AnokaCoHistory.

Twitter is a great way to keep friends and followers up to date on happenings at the History Center and around the county. Followers will certainly get tweets about events and programs, but we're also using it to share local history. Read Executive Director Todd Mahon's column on page 2 for more on how we're using a newly donated artifact to share local history in a fun and inviting way.

Anoka County Civil War Database

Kerri Teske, one of ACHS's incredible volunteers, has been working on a database to catalog Civil War soldiers and veterans with a connection to Anoka County. This database contains unit, rank, enlistment info, birth place and date, death place and date, marriage information, children, occupation and more—whatever Kerri has found on more than 700 men—and she's still working on it, adding information and names as she finds them. Beyond the database, Kerri is also scanning and linking obituaries and other documents pertaining to these men.

To date, Kerri estimates she has put some 200 hours into the creation of this resource that she just asks be "made available to researchers" and she calls it a "work in progress."

Thank you, Kerry, what a gift for those researching the Civil War in Anoka County.

Dear Volunteers by Elaine Koehn, Volunteer Coordinator

Many of you are pretty tired of hearing me nag you about documenting your hours. We know it is not the amount of hours you give that draws you to the History Center. You volunteer for many reasons: family genealogy, your belief in our mission, your love of history, to enhance your skills or simply to be involved in your community. One of our volunteers suggested that I explain why volunteer hours are important.

We record all volunteer hours as in-kind donations. Some references say volunteer hours are only in-kind contribution if they are providing you with a professional service, but I believe that is totally a judgment call. I look at it in that if we would have paid someone to do the work or had staff members do it, then it should count. We don't make busy work for our volunteers. *The Independent Sector* currently values the volunteer hour at \$20.62 in Minnesota, which is an average of different professions. That is the number that I use for calculating the donation amount (but should not be used for tax purposes). Whether our auditors allow us to use it in our financial statements or not, it is a good number to have for our annual report and more importantly, it is often a major factor in acquiring grants for our organization. Grant funding often depends on proving that you have a community with a vested interest in what you do. Giving us your time is the most concrete way of demonstrating that vested interest.

So what does that mean for ACHS volunteers? In 2012, volunteers contributed 5,822 documented hours. Calculated at the value of a volunteer hour at \$20.62 means the total contribution was \$120,049.64!!

In addition, we celebrate volunteers who have been with the organization ten years and over. This year we added five new names; Ann Essling, Jay and Stacy Overby, Kay Skubitz and Maria King. There are 45 volunteers out of our 119 active volunteers among that group. This group of volunteers has contributed 35,541.3 documented hours during the past years and calculates to \$732,861.60. The overall commitment of this group is more than commendable.

I was playing with numbers and old records most of the month of January. Since 1980, the total number of documented hours for currently active volunteers was 49,552.22 hours, which calculates to \$1,021,766.70. So next time you write your hours on the calendar, don't think of it as writing down hours, think of each hour as a \$20.62 donation.

In conclusion, when I say our volunteers are worth a million dollars, you will know I am not kidding!

Contributions & New Members — Thank you

(All lists are current to February 15, 2013)

DONATIONS

Mel & Kathy Aanerud
American Legion Post #334
Sherry Boyce
Robert Brock
Marlys Burman
Barb & Gene Case
Warren & Eva Mae Cleator
Dave & Winnifred Conger
Lucille Elrite
Forest Lake Contracting
Roland & Carol Freeburg
August & LaVerne Grosslein
Ham Lake Chamber of Commerce
Bernadene Heath
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the Minnesota Community Foundation
Orville Lindquist
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Frank & Kay Skubitz
Donna Smith
Gary & Ann Steen
Tim & Rose Talbot
Betty Violet

EMPLOYEE MATCH

Ameriprise Financial/Dan Frank

MEMORIALS & HONORS

In Honor of Vickie Wendel
From Janet Wilcox

ARTIFACT DONORS

Anoka County Sheriff's Office
Larry Elfelt
Robert LaBrec
Ron Middelstadt
John & Louise Melberg
Mary Mescher
Dennis Owen
Zilla Way

NEW MEMBERS

Barb & Gene Case, Andover
Carole Rice, Andover

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

Edward Hamilton, who passed way on February 8, 2013. Ed was a long time member and supporter of ACHS.

Gladys Tollefson, who passed away on February 10, 2013. She was a former ACHS member and the wife of member Chet Tollefson



King family photo album, Linwood

Just a few of the artifacts donated to ACHS in the past six months.



Woman's sweater, Ramsey



Campaign hat for Anoka County Sheriff R.W. Talbot



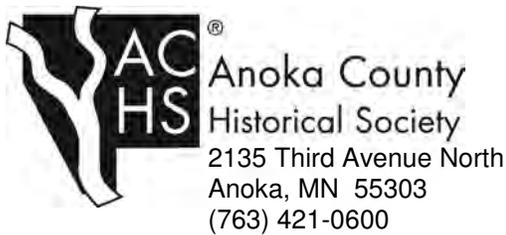
Ballot envelope tags, Columbia Heights



Raffle ticket from Santa Claus Town, Ramsey

GiveMN.org is always there for you to make a secure donation to ACHS from your computer or mobile device.

The screenshot shows the GiveMN.org website interface. At the top, it says "giveMN.org" with the tagline "Click. Contribute. Change Your World." and a search bar for "FIND A NONPROFIT OR A FUNDRAISER". Below this, the profile for "ANOKA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY" is displayed, noting it is a US registered nonprofit in Anoka, MN USA. There is a "Donors' Wall" section featuring a post from Tom Sherohman. On the right side, there is a "Nonprofit Information" box with the society's address and EIN, and a "Make a Donation" section with a dollar sign input field and a green "Donate" button.



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Coming Events

March — April

Staff Favorites — Lobby Exhibit

(Anoka County History Center and Library.) It is a great honor and responsibility for the staff at ACHS to care for the many artifacts and stories entrusted to us. Just like children, you shouldn't play favorites, but there is always something about one special artifact that stands out to someone. Come see which artifacts the staff have chosen as their favorites and find out why in this lighthearted lobby exhibit.

March 9, 2:00 pm

Women of the Civil War

(Northtown Library, 711 County Road 10, Blaine) 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 years of the Civil War. This event is FREE and funded by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

March 24, 1-3:00 pm

ACHS Annual Meeting—Civil War Musical History

(Majestic Oaks, Ham Lake) Experience the stirring sounds of traditional fife and drum music as it was played in the United States Army during the Civil War. John Guthmann and Jim Moffett, long-time members of the state's premier Civil War reenacting unit, will explain and demonstrate the instruments and various calls, signals and martial aires that were an essential part of the daily life of all Minnesota's volunteer soldiers 150 years ago. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED. See page 5 for more info.

April 13, 2:00

History of Oak Grove

(Rum River North Shelter Building, 23100 Rum River Blvd., St. Francis) Oak Grove is one of the original townships established in 1857, but it did not become a city until 1993. This slide show of photographs and stories from Oak Grove's past takes guests on a tour through this township turned city just 20 years ago. This event is FREE and funded by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

April 21, 1-3:00 pm

Celebrating Our Incredible Volunteers!

(Anoka City Hall Community Room, lower level, 2015 First Avenue N, Anoka) Those who have volunteered for ACHS in 2012 will be receiving an invitation to a special luncheon and our program, *Rum Runners and Temperance Tantrums*.

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



These two rifles, a Model 1861 Springfield Rifle-Musket (top) and a Model 1841 U.S. Percussion Rifle (bottom), are featured in the new exhibit All For the Union: Anoka County Faces the Civil War, which opens on May 30.

The Story of an Artifact: Rifled Muskets

By Michael Ritchie, Guest Writer

The Anoka County Historical Society has two Civil War era long guns in its collection. One of these weapons was carried by an Anoka County resident on General William T. Sherman's march through Georgia in late 1864. The other is a rifle that was designed before the Mexican-American War and may have seen service during the War Between the States. Both are rifled weapons, designed to replace obsolete smooth-bore muskets.

Model 1861 Springfield Rifle-Musket

Andrew Wickstrom was issued this Model 1861 Springfield Rifle Musket when he enlisted in the Second Minnesota Infantry in 1864. The Springfield Rifle-Muskets were the most widely manufactured weapon of the Civil War, with 1,500,000 Model 1861 and Model 1863 weapons produced by the government-operated armory in Springfield, Massachusetts, and more than 30 private subcontractors. The

Confederate government also manufactured Model 1861 muskets using parts and machinery seized when they captured the Harpers Ferry Armory in April, 1861.

Mr. Wickstrom's musket was one of about 265,000 muskets produced at the Springfield Armory in 1861 and 1862. The lock plate is stamped with the American eagle, the words U.S./SPRINGFIELD, and the date 1862. It is .58 caliber, with a 40 inch barrel. It was designed to shoot a .58 caliber Minie ball, a hollow based, bullet shaped projectile. Rifle-muskets were accurate to 300+ yards. A soldier

Cont. on page 3



Close up of firing mechanism on Model 1861 Springfield Rifle Musket.

The County's Own Artillery Battery

By Vickie Wendel, Program Manager

More men from the Anoka County area served in the Second Minnesota Battery of Light Artillery than from any other county in the state. It was not uncommon for units serving in the Union Army to have concentrations of men from a single area. Sometimes the local militia enlisted as a company and served in the war together. Recruiting officers often worked on filling a company or regiment while they were in a town, so anyone enlisting at that time served in the same unit. Especially early in the war, a man might recruit heavily among his friends and neighbors so he could earn or be voted the unit's officer. Such was the case with the Second Minnesota Battery and how more than 70 Anoka County and surrounding area men came to serve in it.

By definition, a Union light artillery battery during the Civil War was 145 men, about 98 horses

Cont. on page 4

Inside This Issue

President and Executive Director.....	2
Civil War Documentary.....	3
Civil War Exhibition.....	5
Volunteering.....	6
Donations and Thank Yous.....	7
Upcoming Events.....	8

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

Anoka County History Center & Library

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Anoka, MN 55303

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E-mail: achs@ac-hs.org

www.ac-hs.org

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

For the last few months, ACHS has been working with our partners at the City of Anoka's Heritage Preservation Commission to recruit homes for the 2013 Anoka Heritage Home and Garden Tour. This program, entering its tenth season, is a personal favorite of mine.

The challenge is always finding homeowners who are gracious and willing to open their home up to a few hundred people on a July Sunday afternoon. It's certainly not for everyone, but we've found that those that do offer their homes end up having a great time and find it to be a very rewarding experience.

One of the things I often hear from the homeowners is they like having their home on the tour because it is another way that they can support the mission of the Historical Society. There are lots of ways that people support us. Memberships and donations are obvious. Volunteering with the Historical Society is another great way to help further our efforts.

Volunteers play a significant role in the Home and Garden Tour. Each home has several volunteers stationed at the home, taking tickets, telling visitors about the history of the home, and letting the homeowners enjoy the day.

But it is those homeowners who really make this event possible. We are still recruiting homes and gardens to be on this year's tour for July 14. We're continuing to look for generous homeowners interested in showing off their homes and sharing the history of their neighborhood. This year's tour is focused on the neighborhood in Anoka that runs along the Mississippi River west of the Rum River. It features a lot of mid-twentieth century homes, which tell a great story about the post World War II development of Anoka.

If you live in this neighborhood and are interested in sharing your home with us, please give us a call at the History Center at 763-421-0600. We would be so grateful and it's just one more way you can help us with our mission to share Anoka County's history.

From the President...

By Al Pearson

When I was a kid, living on W. Hwy. 10, sometimes Anoka State Hospital patients would walk away and on several occasions, walked the 7 miles to our farm. This one particular man would be hungry and tired by the time he got to the house. He'd just walk right in and ask for supper and then wanted to go to bed.

Mom made him a sandwich while Dad called the Anoka County Sheriff. A deputy would come out to pick the man up. If the man didn't want to go with him, the deputy would show him a whiskey bottle—of course it was filled with water—and say, "Steven, come on out to the car and we can have a drink." The man would willingly go and get in the car.

Steven made several trips out to the farm in the late '40s, but after the first time, Mom kept the screen door latched.

Some patients that walked away were found taking a swim in the Rum River or found just wandering

Years later, as young farmer, I rented the hay land on the State Hospital grounds. One day when I was cutting hay, several patients walked past the field where I was working. They were on their way to the river for a swim. A sudden rain storm came up and I crouched under the protection of the tractor. As I waited for the storm to pass, the patients went streaking by in the buff, carrying their clothes.

A few days later when hay was ready to bale, one man came back and wanted to ride on the wagon and help load the bales. I spoke to him and he left immediately. The next day when he came, I didn't speak. When he asked to ride, I nodded my head yes. He helped and talked, but I had to just shake my head or make hmmm or ummm sounds. If I didn't speak, he would stay the afternoon and really seemed to be enjoying himself.

I enjoyed the man coming to ride on the wagon, because he was doing something he liked.

Now there is a lot of talk about what will happen to those buildings and that talk has made me remember my encounters with these patients of the past. I'm sure there are many people who have stories about the State Hospital and its patients.

Artifact: Rifled Muskets

From page 1.

was supposed to be trained to load and fire his rifle-musket three times a minute.

At the end of the Civil War, some rifle-muskets were offered for sale to Union soldiers. The army converted some muskets to breach loading weapons. Some were converted to flintlocks and sold to markets in Africa and South America. Mr. Wickstrom carried his Springfield on Sherman's March to Sea, and kept it for the rest of his life. It was donated to ACHS by his son.

Model 1841 U.S. Percussion Rifle

Charles DeFoe served with the 11th Illinois Cavalry during the Civil War, and he brought a Model 1841 U.S. Percussion Rifle with him when he later moved to Anoka County. Family lore said he used it during the



Close up of firing mechanism on Model 1841 U.S. Percussion Rifle.

Civil War. The Model 1841 rifle is also known as the Harpers Ferry Model 1841 or the Mississippi Rifle. The U.S. Armory in Harpers Ferry, Virginia, manufactured 25,296 Model 1841 rifles between 1846 and 1855. Private contractors made another 45,000 rifles for the government. The DeFoe rifle is stamped 1849 on the lockplate, and appears to have been manufactured by Remington. The lockplate is badly corroded, but the letters R and M are faintly visible in the correct location.

The Model 1841 is a .54 caliber rifle with a 33 inch barrel. It was designed to shoot patched round musket balls. The round ball was seated on a cloth patch when it was rammed into the barrel. After 1855, many Model 1841 rifles were rebored to .58 caliber to accept the new .58 Minie ball. The DeFoe rifle is in the original 54 caliber. The first Model 1841 rifles were not made for use with bayonets, but later models

Cont. on page 7



A replica patch and musket ball on the left, the mine ball on the right. The penny is for size reference.

Civil War Documentary Showing in Coon Rapids

Join ACHS and the Coon Rapids Historical Commission for a free screening of the Civil War documentary *From Wasioja to Washington*. The film shows at 6:30pm on May 16 at the Coon Rapids Senior Center at 11155 Robinson Drive. Tickets are free, but limited. Stop in at the Anoka County History Center at 2135 Third Avenue No. in Anoka, or call us at 763-421-0600.

This Civil War documentary tells the story of what happened to the men and boys from Wasioja and Dodge County. Wasioja is a small town in South Eastern Minnesota about 20 miles west of Rochester. This film tells how "The Boys of Wasioja" were recruited from Northwestern College Seminary to muster at Fort Snelling as the Second Minnesota Company C. The documentary production is a partnership between the Friends of Wasioja and Hennepin Technical College.

A movie poster for the documentary "From Wasioja to Washington". The poster features a central illustration of an eagle with its wings spread, perched on a branch. Above the eagle, the text reads "THE FRIENDS OF WASIOJA & HENNEPIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE PRESENTS!". Below the eagle, it says "FREE CINEMA SCREENING!" and "FROM WASIOJA TO WASHINGTON". Further down, it says "COME AND SEE!" and "THE SAVIORS OF KENTUCKY" in large, bold letters. Below that, it reads "THIS CIVIL WAR DOCUMENTARY TELLS THE STORY OF WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MEN AND BOYS FROM WASIOJA AND DODGE COUNTY." At the bottom, it lists the director, writer, and executive producer: "DIRECTED BY SAMUEL HENDERSON, WRITTEN FOR THE CINEMA BY ANDI JOHNSON & RICHARD OXLEY, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER RICHARD OXLEY". The screening details are: "A MINNESOTA CIVIL WAR STORY, Thursday, May 16, 2013 6:30 PM, Coon Rapids City Hall, 11155 Robinson Dr, Coon Rapids, MN 55433". At the very bottom, there is a small text block: "THIS CIVIL WAR DOCUMENTARY TELLS THE STORY OF WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MEN AND BOYS FROM WASIOJA AND DODGE COUNTY. WASIOJA IS A SMALL TOWN IN SOUTH EASTERN MINNESOTA ABOUT 20 MILES WEST OF ROCHESTER. THIS FILM TELLS HOW 'THE BOYS OF WASIOJA' WERE RECRUITED FROM NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE SEMINARY TO MUSTER AT FORT SNELLING AS THE SECOND MINNESOTA COMPANY C. THE FILM FOLLOWS THE MEN AND BOYS THROUGH THE BATTLE OF MILL SPRINGS, THE BATTLE OF CHICKAMAUGA, THE MARCH TO ATLANTA AND THE MARCH TO THE SEA WITH GENERAL SHERMAN, THE ROUTING OF SOUTH CAROLINA TO THE GRAND MARCH AT WAR'S END. THE FILM THEN FOLLOWS THESE BRAVE MEN AS THEY MUSTERED OUT AT FORT SNELLING." The poster also includes logos for Media Storm, Interactive Design & Video Production, and Hennepin Technical College.

Artillery Battery

From page 1.

and six field cannons. Light artillery meant guns were small enough for teams of six horses to pull. Light was a relative term as many field guns still weighed 2,000 pounds or more.

The man to begin recruiting for an artillery battery was not from Anoka, but he had connections to the town. He was William Hotchkiss, a Mexican War veteran from Monticello in Wright County, Minnesota. Though Hotchkiss thought he would command the First Battery, his appointment as captain came with the Second Battery.

Two men were instrumental in helping recruit for Hotchkiss, Richard L. Dawley, from Winona, also a veteran of the Mexican War, and Albert Woodbury, a 26 year old dealer in real estate from Anoka. Woodbury was from a well known Anoka County family who invested heavily in the water power, flour and saw mills, and land dealings in both the communities of Anoka and St. Francis. Woodbury probably recruited heavily among friends, acquaintances, business associates and neighbors. Woodbury worked both sides of the Mississippi River, recruiting from nearby communities in Hennepin County as well as throughout Anoka, Sherburne, and Isanti Counties. Some 74 men wrote that they had been recruited into the Battery by Woodbury.

The Second Minnesota Battery was officially mustered into service on March 21, 1862, and sent south on a river boat. George Murphie, a private in the Battery, wrote his father about their trip down the river. *"We had as pleasant a passage down as could be expected with some 800 passengers. At all the towns on the river the people flocked to the banks as we passed, or stopped for a few minutes while our band struck up Hail Columbia, or Yankee Doodle, and cheer after cheer greeted us on landing and leaving."*

The Battery landed at St. Louis, Missouri, where they remained until they were issued their cannons, horses, and equipment. They were assigned to



William Hotchkiss (left), from Wright County, recruited many of the men for the Second Battery of Light Artillery. Albert Woodbury (right), was an Anoka businessman who helped bring Anoka area men to the unit.



the Army of the Cumberland and were soon participating in the siege at Corinth, Mississippi.

The real baptism of fire for the Second Battery came at Perryville, Kentucky, on October 8, 1862. They fought the battle as separate sections, with pairs of guns being sent to different parts of the field. When it was over, four Battery men were wounded; and one more was left behind when they were ordered to retreat. It took two days, but it was Lt. Albert Woodbury who went back and finally found the wounded man.

Besides fighting battles, the men of the Second did a lot of marching—they recorded 265 miles of marching just in October of 1862, as the Union Army moved in pursuit of Confederate General Braxton Bragg.

The Battery participated in many smaller skirmishes and battles including Stones River, Tullahoma, Missionary Ridge, Tunnel Hill, and Buzzards Roost, but it was at Chickamauga, Georgia, that a Rebel bullet caught Lt. Woodbury in the elbow. The infection that followed took his life a month after the battle.

Woodbury was the only officer of the Second Battery to lose his life during the war, nineteen more enlisted men were lost to battle or disease. Seven of those enlisted men were from Anoka County and all seven died from disease. They were Melchoir Blesi, Gilbert Gaslin,

Alonzo Keene, Samuel Markham, James McKinney, Sidney Norris, Charles Washburn. All were buried in the South. Only Lt. Woodbury's body was returned to Anoka for a funeral and then taken to Massachusetts to be buried beside his mother, something more common for officers than enlisted men, but unusual even for officers.

Lucius Pratt decided to enlist and left his wife in charge of their farm, three miles east of Anoka, today's Coon Rapids. He joined the Second Battery

Cont. on page 6



Lucius Pratt, pictured circa 1862, served in the unit.

All for the Union: Anoka County Faces the Civil War

Exhibit Opening at the
Anoka County History Center
2135 Third Avenue, Anoka, MN
May 30th, 2013

Join us on the evening of May 30 for the opening of our exhibition *All for the Union: Anoka County Faces the Civil War*. The highly anticipated exhibit tells the story of Anoka

County role in the Civil War, the war's impact on the community, and more. Special recognition will be made of Civil War descendants. Refreshments will be provided.

Honoring Civil War Ancestors

Do you have a Civil War ancestor? If so, the Anoka County Historical Society would like to honor you and your ancestor at the opening of our Civil War exhibit, *All for the Union: Anoka County Faces the Civil War* on May 30 and again during the summer celebration of Riverfest, July 13.

Anyone with a Civil War ancestor will receive a button to wear the day of the event. Fill out this short form and bring it to the May 30 or July 13 events. The soldiers do not need to have been from Minnesota or Anoka County, and it does not matter if they fought for the Union or Confederacy.

Honoring Ancestors

Ancestor's Name: _____

Unit he served with: _____

Your name: _____

Your address: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

If you have more information about your soldier, especially if that soldier enlisted from or moved to Anoka County during or after the war, ACHS would be happy to add it to the research currently being done to record all Civil War soldiers in the county.

Dear Volunteers

by Elaine Koehn, Volunteer Coordinator

May and June are shaping up to be very busy months. We'll hold the Ten Plus Club Luncheon for volunteers who have been with Anoka County Historical Society for more than ten years. Ghost Tour season starts in May and a new children's program on logging is scheduled for June.

On May 7, we will honor volunteers who have been with the History Center for over ten years with a luncheon at the History Center. This year five volunteers were added to the Ten Plus Club: Ann Essling, Jay and Stacy Overby, Maria King and Kay Skubitz. I want to extend my sincere gratitude to these very dedicated volunteers.

Our Ghost Tour Season will start up again on May 9th and we will hold tours on Thursday and Saturday the first and third week of the month. A committee of volunteers joined me to revise the script that has been used for the past six years. Many patrons have been on the tour several times and we wanted to add some new stories and history.

Darlene Bearl, June Anderson and Lynn Rickert are very experienced docents and have led many tours. Their expertise was vital to maintaining the accuracy of the history along with gathering and researching the new stories that were added. We also want to welcome four new docents, Tina Anderson, Jillian Cautrell, Amber Blake and Chris Luehr, who will work with mentors to become tour guides. They come from a variety of backgrounds and a multitude of experiences. I believe they will be a wonderful addition to the team. We also added a virtual tour one Saturday a month for patrons who have difficulty walking and we plan to take the virtual tour to other locations as a traveling program.

Volunteer Sara Given has worked closely with me and will help present a new program for children in June. "Logging Orientation Day" will illustrate different jobs, procedures and the rewards for workers signing up for the "Ball Club Logging Camp's 1913 winter season." Following the history presentation, kids will build log cabins out of pretzels to take home. We plan to offer this program again at the Old Farm House during the Anoka County Fair in July.

Finally, July will soon be upon us. I will be contacting volunteers to help with Riverfest, Home and Garden Show and the Anoka County Fair. We are planning some fun activities for kids at the old farm house, the Home and Garden Show is always wonderful and we have so much fun at Riverfest. If you are available to help with any of these events, please give me a call.

Thank you so much for all that you do.
Until Next Time

Artillery Battery

From page 4.

of and served as the Battery's bugler. Lucius was promoted to corporal, but by the spring of 1863, he was sick and he did not recover enough to return to duty. When the war was over, Lucius returned to his farm in Anoka Township. In his later years, Lucius moved Marywood, Florida, where he spent his last years. He passed away on New Year's Day, 1905, and was buried in the Marywood Cemetery on what is now Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida.



William Staples, pictured here in 1906, joined the unit from Grow (Andover).

Fordis Averill enlisted in Anoka and served through the entire war, reenlisting when his first three year term was finished. He was injured when a horse kicked him in the chest while the Battery was in Missouri getting their equipment, was slightly wounded in the hip at the battle of Chickamauga, and spent nearly six weeks as a guest of the Confederacy after he was captured in Tennessee. Averill was exchanged and did return to the Battery, but not until he was healthy and that took almost a year.

William Staples of Grow (Andover) enlisted for three months in the First Minnesota Infantry in 1861, but when the enlistments were changed to be three years, Staples opted out and returned to the family farm. When Lt. Woodbury came recruiting in 1862, Staples enlisted with the Battery. He served until the spring of 1864 when he was discharged for disability. He came home to Grow, married and raised a family, spending the rest of his days on his farm.

These are a few of the stories from the men who served from Anoka County in the Second Minnesota Battery of Light Artillery. Join us for the opening of All for the Union: Anoka County Faces the Civil War on May 30, 7:00 pm, to learn more about the Second Battery, the Eighth Infantry Company A, the Dakota Conflict's impact on the county, and much more about the effect the American Civil War had on Anoka County. See page 5 for times and details of the opening and another special event coming in July.

Contributions & New Members – Thank you

(All lists are current to April 12, 2013)

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Zilla Way

NEW MEMBERS

Jillian & Logan Cautrell, Oak Grove
Karah Hawkinson, Coon Rapids

Artifact: Rifled Muskets

From page 3

had modifications for saber bayonets.

The Model 1841 was known as the Mississippi Rifle because it was used by the 1st Mississippi Rifles during the Mexican-American War. The 1st Mississippi was led by Colonel Jefferson Davis. At the Battle of Buena Vista, the unit used these rifles to drive the smooth-bore musket-equipped Mexican army from the field.

The Model 1841 rifle is considered by many collectors as one of the best looking guns created for the military. It features a brass butt plate, trigger guard, barrel bands and patch box. The soldier was expected to keep the brass furniture shining bright. The patch box in the stock was used to store cloth patches, cleaning equipment and extra musket balls.

Update on Civil War Database

The last newsletter had an article about Kerri Teske, an ACHS volunteer who is working on a database for Anoka County Civil War soldiers and veterans. She's been really working hard on it these last weeks and currently has nearly 800 supporting documents attached to the name of the soldier. These documents include obituaries, enlistment forms, a few muster sheets, and whatever else she has been able to find—even a couple of letters and photos of these men.

Her catalog contains unit, rank, enlistment info, birth place and date, death place and date, marriage information, children, occupation and more—whatever Kerri has found on more than 700 men with connections to Anoka County laid out in searchable spread sheet form.

If you have a Civil War ancestor who lived in Anoka County, please contact ACHS. Perhaps you have information Kerri would like to add or maybe you have information she does not. Sharing this great information is the best part!

Announcements and News

◆Just a reminder that the May 9 and June 13 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.



Look for us on Twitter!

The Anoka County Historical Society can now be found on Twitter. Look for us under the name @AnokaCoHistory.

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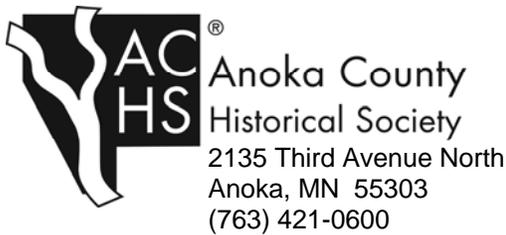
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Coming Events

May 4, 2:00 pm

Rum Runners and Temperance Tantrums

(Northtown Library, 711 County Road 10, Blaine) The 18th Amendment made it illegal to manufacture, sell or transport intoxicating liquors. Why such a law was thought necessary and its effect on Anoka County—which voted to go dry four years earlier—makes for a fun look at history! This event is FREE and funded by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

May 16, 6:30 pm

Screening of *From Wasioja to Washington*

(Coon Rapids Senior Center, 11155 Robinson Drive, Coon Rapids) Join us for a free screening of a documentary about the Second Minnesota Company C and their journey through the South. Tickets are required. See page 3 for more details.

May 30, 7:00 pm

All For the Union: Anoka County Faces the Civil War

(Anoka County History Center and Library) War changes everything and from 1862 to 1865, Anoka County citizens found themselves facing two wars. Join ACHS to open this new exhibit and learn of the hardships and heartaches our ancestors faced. This opening will be kicked off by Pvt. William Crowder, bugler, playing military bugle calls. Refreshments will even include hardtack.

May 9, 11, 23, & 25, 7:30 pm

Ghost of Anoka Tours

June 6, 8, 20, & 22 7:30 pm

(Meet at the Anoka County History Center and Library.) Take a walk on downtown Anoka's spookier side and hear stories of things that go bump in the night! These tours are filled with stories of history and of unexplained things. Advanced tickets are highly recommended—these popular tours sell out very fast. **A virtual tour, featuring photos and stories, will be offered on June 22 at 1:00pm for those unable to walk the tour.** Call 763-421-0600 and reserve your place on the tour.

June 8, 10:30 am—Noon

Logging Orientation Day Kids Program

(Anoka County History Center and Library.) Do you want to join us? Work in the exciting world of logging? Come on June 8th to learn about the different jobs, procedures and rewards in knowing how to cut down trees for the lumber industry – and then practice for the new logging season by building your own log cabin! Adults \$7.00, Children and members \$5.00



SERVING:

- Andover
- Anoka
- Bethel
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- Lexington
- Lino Lakes
- Linwood
- Nowthen
- Oak Grove
- Ramsey
- St. Francis
- Spring Lake Park



The Woodbury House

By Todd Mahon, Executive Director

Perhaps Anoka's most recognized and treasured residence, the Woodbury House, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. Yet for all of its recognition, the home also remains a mystery to many of the residents and commuters who see it on a near daily basis. It is guarded by a rail fence and river rock wall along Ferry Street and sheltered by a canopy of trees that include ash, oak, and elm.

This grand old lady was built in 1858, the year that Minnesota became a state. The original layout of the home was square-shaped and featured Federal and Greek Revival architectural styles that were maintained with additions. At the turn of the last century, a one-story, L-shaped addition was constructed on the west façade of the house, and a one-story colonnaded porch was added along the north and east facades, and partially along the south façade. The porch was expanded and screened in 1937.

Built by Dr. Samuel Shaw, who came to Minnesota to practice medicine as well as address his own health in Minnesota's acclaimed

healthful environment, the house was soon sold to Dwight Woodbury in 1860. Woodbury purchased the rights to the water power of the Rum River in Anoka and up stream in St. Francis and oversaw the construction of dams in both communities. He and his family were very prominent in both communities and were lauded for their civic-minded donations of land for public squares and funds for the construction of churches and schools.

Woodbury's daughter, Mary, wrote governors coming to call and fondly remembered how much she and her siblings enjoyed the visits of Ignatius Donnelly and Bishop Whipple. When logs cut in winter were sent down the Rum River in the spring, she and her brother, John, would row out into the river and place a log in a position to cause a log jam so they could watch the show that would ensue!

Mary and her husband, Irving Caswell, received the home following Woodbury's 1884 death. Irving was well known in the community for owning one of the local newspapers, the *Anoka Herald*, and for serving as the local

Cont. on page 4

The Soldiers' Aid Society

By Vickie Wendel, Program Manager

When the Civil War began in 1861, everyone wanted to support the Union. That patriotic fever touched women as much as men, but as they could not enlist, they began organizing groups to provide for the soldiers. Women across the north got busy "getting up boxes" for the troops.

The idea of forming and getting official approval for an organization to oversee and efficiently distribute the contributions of the people in the North began in New York. The plan was based on what had been organized in Britain following the Crimean War. A conference was held in the late spring of 1861 to coordinate the individual efforts of relief societies throughout the United States.

Doctors, clergymen, lawyers and other interested parties who recognized a need for better coordination of relief efforts, attended the conference. As a result, the development of Articles of Organization to form what would become the United States Sanitary Commission (USSC) was accepted by the War Department on June 9, 1861.

Cont. on page 4

Inside This Issue

President and Executive Director.....	2
Home & Garden Tour.....	3
Riverfest Civil War Activities.....	5
Volunteering.....	6
Donations and Thank Yous.....	7
Upcoming Events.....	8

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

Anoka County History Center & Library

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Anoka, MN 55303

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Fax (763) 323-0218

E-mail: achs@ac-hs.org

www.ac-hs.org

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

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From the Director...

By Todd Mahon

I am one of those lucky people who loves their job and the organization I work with. We do so many fun and important things to preserve and share Anoka County's rich history throughout the year. While I like them all, perhaps my favorite program we offer is the Anoka Heritage Home and Garden Tour every July.

This event features historic homes in Anoka and lets people get an up-close look at the interiors and some of the well kept gardens and yards. There are eight private residences on this year's tour, three business stops. Seven of those eight residences have never been featured on this tour before.

Probably be the most exciting addition to the tour is the Woodbury House on Ferry Street. Our front page history article shares some of the rich history of one of the most prominent and recognizable homes in Anoka. The City of Anoka is the current owner of the home, having purchased it in April, and they intend to put it back on the market soon. Eventually the Anoka council came out in favor of placing the home on the tour, but some of the council members were concerned that the home may not show well on the tour. For the last several years, it has been unoccupied and, before the City came into possession of it, there was some damage due to neglect.

The Home and Garden Tour committee conceded that the house was currently a bit rough on the edges, but the city's ownership of it gave the public a rare opportunity to see the house on this year's home tour. The next owner of the home may very well restore it to its former glory and give the public lots of opportunities to see it, but then again, they may not. The timing on this is too good to pass up.

Many of the other homes on the tour are on or near the Mississippi River. They include a terrific Mid-Century Modern home on West Lane and one of the most amazing English-style gardens you will ever see. This garden is a huge and features crushed rock pathways and plants too numerous to list, but it is not to be missed.

Tickets for this event can be purchased at the Anoka County History Center, by calling us at (763) 421-0600, or online at AnokaCountyHistory.org.

From the President...

By Al Pearson

I get that call that it's newsletter time again and I wonder what do I write about that could be interesting? The timing for the article always seems to come before I'm ready for it.

Living close to the railroad tracks, we see and hear many trains daily. We appreciate the North Star Commuter train that runs several times at the beginning and end of each day. There are also many long freighters each day—mostly with oil cars making their deliveries.

These make me think back to the 1940's when the freights heading west would slow because of an uphill grade on the tracks not far from our house. A hobo, as we called them, would sometimes jump off the train, come over to the farm and ask for something to eat and drink. Sometimes they would ask for work to pay for some food. Dad would have them help clean out the calf pens, which was always such a fun job—ha, ha! My mom always fed them a meal.

Occasionally in the evening, a hobo would jump off a slow moving train and want to sleep in the hay mow. Dad was afraid they might start a fire, so more than once, he drove them to Elk River and bought them a 35 cent bus ticket to St. Cloud, so he could be sure they wouldn't sneak back into the barn. The hobos would be able to catch another slow moving freight from St. Cloud and Dad was sure that at least that one wouldn't sneak back to sleep in the hay mow.

I remember more than once, going in the hay mow in the morning to put hay down for our cows, (it would still be dark during the winter months) and being surprised by a strange man sleeping there. When you are only 10 or 12 years old, that was scary!

I liked it much better after we had electricity. I could see and not be surprised at who might be there.

The trains on those tracks don't slow down for the grade like they used to and hobos riding the rails are not so common anymore. It's good that we record history and remember our past.

GET YOUR TICKETS

Anoka Heritage Home and Garden Tour

Sunday, July 14 ♦ 1:00pm - 5:00pm



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

This year's tour included the **Woodbury House** (pictured above), one of Anoka's most treasured and visible homes. Ticket buyers will be eligible for raffle prizes at local business stops, including a one-night stay at Anoka's Ticknor-Hill Bed and Breakfast.

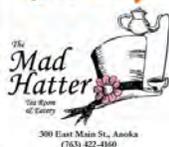
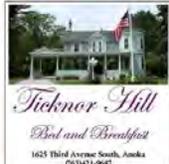
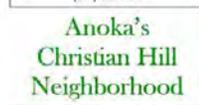
The highlight of the summer season! The tour features open house tours of eight Anoka homes and gardens, in and near the Whiskey Flats neighborhood west of Ferry Street and south of Main Street. Seven of the sites have never been on this tour before.



Advance sale tickets on sale at the Anoka County History Center at 2135 Third Avenue North, by calling (763) 421-0600, or by visiting AnokaCountyHistory.org.

Order Online!

Proudly sponsored by:



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The Woodbury House

From page 1.

postmaster.

The home was sold to Charles Kiewell in 1936 and he was responsible for most exterior additions as well as a major alteration to the interior of the house, including the modern kitchen. Kiewell, the president of Grain Belt Brewery of Minneapolis, sold the home to Dr. and Mrs. Victor Johnston, a local dentist. It is said that Kiewell only lived in the home part time and that when the Johnstons bought the home, it returned to the public eye and again became a location of hospitality.

The home was purchased by John Weaver in 1985. He was an Anoka small-business owner and longtime member of the Anoka City Council and, for a time, represented the area in the state legislature. Weaver sat on the board of the Anoka County Historical Society and hosted a fundraiser event in the home that featured Garrison Keillor.

After Weaver's death in 2004, the home was sold to a developer in 2006. When the bottom dropped out of the housing market, the home entered a period of limbo as it went through more than one foreclosure process. The City of Anoka's Housing and Redevelopment Authority purchased it in 2013. It is now owned by the City, which plans to put the home back on the market. It has not been occupied for some time. Before the Weaver family sold the home, they developed a facade easement and turned the enforcement authority of it over to the City of Anoka. This prevents significant alterations to the view shed and to the exterior of the house in order to maintain its historic character.

For the first time ever, the Woodbury House will be featured on the Anoka Heritage Home and Garden Tour. The home is not currently in "show room" condition, but given its recent ownership and unknown future, having the home on the tour is a rare opportunity we cannot pass up. For information on the tour and ticket purchasing, see page 3.



This is the earliest known photograph of the Woodbury house, taken in 1891, while Mary Woodbury Caswell was living there with her family.

Soldiers' Aid Society

From page 1.

The War Department sanctioned the creation of the USSC on June 9, 1861. Before the war was over, there were more than 2,500 branch offices of the USSC in cities across the North.

The USSC was organized into three departments. The **Preventive Service Department** was probably the most significant and most controversial department. It sent inspectors to military hospitals and army camps to improve living conditions for the men. They worked from the theory that it was easier to PREVENT a person from getting sick than it was to get them well again. Getting camps and hospitals cleaned up was one of the main tasks taken on by the USSC.

The **Department of Special Relief** managed "Soldier's Rest" homes where a soldier traveling through that area could stop for a meal or a place to sleep. They also provided money for transportation and special care if a disabled soldier was in need of those services while trying to get home. They helped the families of disabled soldiers, and sought help for widows and orphans. Not disbanded until 1866, a year after the war was over, Special Relief workers also tried to help soldiers who had problems returning to civilian life.

The **Department of General Relief drew the most volunteers.** Donations of food, clothing, blankets, medicines, and other items for wounded and ill soldiers were sought from individuals and businesses. The local groups organized to seek these donations and provide as much as possible for the troops were known as **Soldiers' Aid Societies (SAS)**. The SAS was made up of local groups of women raising money, knitting socks, or whatever they could do and sending those boxes of goods to the local branch office of the USSC. The branch offices sorted the donations and sent huge boxes of like items either directly to where those supplies were needed or forwarded them to the regional USSC where they would be held until distributed as needed. It was estimated that there were some 32,000 SAS chapters across the North all feeding money and supplies into the USSC. Scanty records exist that tell us at least Anoka and Champlin had Soldiers' Aid Societies with the likelihood of more around the county.

SAS chapters raised money by holding raffles, fairs, dances, sociable, pie and picnic basket auctions, soliciting donations, working to get a local tax passed to support the soldiers, and many more creative ways to support their troops. The money they raised was used to buy materials for making things for the soldiers or sent directly to the USSC to buy medicines and other supplies not able to be made at home.

ACHS is seeking your help to recreate what those women of the Soldiers' Aid Societies did 150 years ago. Bring a donation to ACHS at Riverfest (or any time before July 15) and drop it off with the ladies at the Soldiers' Aid Society booth in the History Center. All donations will be sent to U.S. troops serving overseas. Everyone is encouraged to tuck a note into their donations with a message or their own contact information just as women of the 1860s did.

Suggestions from the troops include: powdered drink mixes, candy, beef jerky, phone cards, protein bars, mac and cheese cups, toaster pastries, gummy bears, etc.

Special Civil War Activities at Riverfest, July 13

All for the Union: Anoka County Faces the Civil War

Come to the History Center, 10am to 4pm!

Full scale cannon and Civil War soldiers on the front lawn

Soldiers' Aid Society "Collecting Committee" inside (where it's air conditioned)

The SAS will have a Fish Pond for kids!

Free admission to *All For the Union: Anoka County Faces the Civil War* exhibit

Special recognition of Civil War descendants (see below)

Civil War Scavenger Hunt (with prizes!)

Honoring Civil War Ancestors

Do you have a Civil War ancestor? If so, the Anoka County Historical Society would like to honor you and your ancestor when you visit our new exhibit, *All for the Union: Anoka County Faces the Civil War* during the summer celebration of Riverfest on July 13.

Anyone with a Civil War ancestor will receive a button to wear the day of the event. Fill out this short form and bring it to the July 13 event. The soldiers do not need to have been from Minnesota or Anoka County, and it does not matter if they fought for the Union or Confederacy.

Honoring Ancestors

Ancestor's Name: _____

Unit he served with: _____

Your name: _____

Your address: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

If your Civil War ancestors resided in Anoka County and you have more information on them, ACHS would be happy to add it to the research currently being done to record all Civil War soldiers in the county.

Dear Volunteers

by Elaine Koehn, Volunteer Coordinator

June through October are always the busiest months for volunteers at ACHS. Opportunities abound! Here's a sampling of upcoming events – please look at your schedules and consider donating a few hours. You will fulfill an important need in your community. You'll meet new people, learn new things and have fun doing it.

I am looking for volunteers to distribute posters for Riverfest and the Annual Heritage Home and Garden Tour. If several people each take a few to distribute around their neighborhood and other locations they frequent, it would get the word out for us without a lot of work for any one person. I hope to develop a publicity team we can call on for periodical publicity distribution needs. This would help benefit ACHS greatly.

Riverfest is July 13. Along with free admission to the gallery, the Second Minnesota Battery of Light Artillery will be on the front lawn telling stories about the Civil War and what life was like in a light artillery unit at the time. This should increase the number of people coming to the History Center! We need volunteers to sell tickets to the Heritage Home and Garden Tour, and signatures for a replica Sanitary Commission style quilt that will be raffled off to raise money for keeping history.

July 14 is our annual Anoka Heritage Home and Garden Tour. The tour features historic homes and gardens in and around Anoka's Whiskey Flats neighborhood. Also included on this year's tour is the Woodbury House at 1632 South Ferry Street. Some of you have already registered to help out that day, but I still need 11 more volunteers to fill the home owner's requests. If you can help out that day, please give me a call.

Because our volunteers are always so willing to help, I have the Anoka County Fair schedule filled. However if you are still interested in the fair, I would like to put you on a sub list. The fair is July 23-28 and we have some new activities planned. If you are at the fair, stop by and say hello.

This year we offered a new kids program: Logging Orientation Day. We held it at the History Center on Saturday, June 8th and several volunteers were involved. Sara Given worked closely with me to develop a PowerPoint presentation which she presented and several volunteers were on hand to help the kids build their very own log cabin out of pretzels. We are offering this presentation again at the Anoka County Fair.

Each of these programs advances our mission to gather, preserve and share the history of Anoka County. Effective programs require effective volunteers who answer questions, manage traffic, welcome patrons with a friendly smile and generally keep an eye on things. Our programs are the best because our volunteers are the best! If you haven't already read the wonderful article in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* about our very own Lucille Elrite please do so. It was published on June 5th in the North Metro Section.

Until Next Time!

Special Thanks

All of our ACHS volunteers are very special to us and do incredible things. However, once in a while, we like to say a special thank you to a volunteer who has gone the extra mile for history.

Katie Demarco went an extra 900 miles for history this spring! She went along (paying her own way) on the road trip to northwestern Minnesota where she was the assistant for nine programs in the Lake Agassiz Regional Library system. Their library system spans many counties and our ACHS Fashion Trends program was presented three times each day in three different cities for three days—with a day on each side for travel to and from the northwest. Katie read maps, programmed the GPS, carried props, opened doors, helped get hands-on items passed, and most important of all—managed Vickie's hoop skirts in a world not convenient to a 120 inch circumference skirt!

Thank you, Katie! You made the trip much less stressful and your help is so appreciated!

More Special Thanks for Our New Website



Have you checked out the new website for ACHS? The new site was created for ACHS by volunteers John Teague and Rebecca Holmlund. Besides the updated look, the new website allows patrons to buy tickets for our events. The site is accurate up to the minute, refreshing every ten seconds with the most current numbers of tickets remaining.

John and Rebecca have spent many hours working with ACHS staff to be sure the website will function the best way possible for our patrons and staff. Their skills and expertise have really brought a fresh look and far more usefulness to our website and we thank them for this extra special volunteer project.

Check the website often as we will be continuing to add content and more features as time goes on.

Contributions & New Members -- Thank you

(All lists are current to June 14, 2013)

DONATIONS

Anonymous
Jeannine Chamberlain
Mary Chamberlain
Katie DeMarco
Fifth Avenue Dental
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Olivia & Herb Frey
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Maria King
Bonnie McDonald & Michael Johnson
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Given by Dottie Carlson

In memory of Howard Kortmeyer
Given by Dottie Carlson

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Bob & Jean McFarlane, Rogers
Mary Ann & Orville Midgley, Andover
E. Lou Morse, Champlin
Dale & Connie Peterson, Anoka
Richard & Gwen Reiter, Anoka
Bruce Saxe, Coon Rapids
Grace Schronk, Blaine



Look for us on Twitter!

The Anoka County Historical Society can now be found on Twitter. Look for us under the name @AnokaCoHistory.



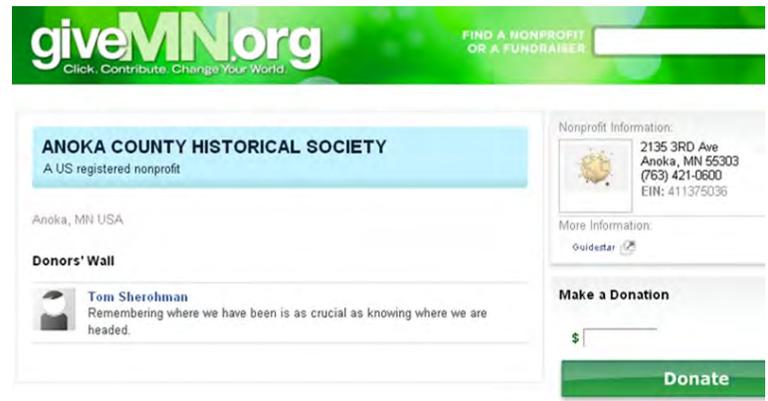
All For The Union Exhibit Opening

Some 150 people were here to open our Civil War exhibit on May 30, 2013. In addition to the exhibit opening, the U.S. Post Office unveiled the latest two stamps in their series commemorating the Civil War. Private Bill Crowder, a reenactor from the Second Minnesota Battery, played appropriate bugle calls during the brief program before the doors were opened and everyone allowed in for their first look at *All For the Union: Anoka County Faces the Civil War*.

We heard many great comments about the exhibit and some people have already made a return visit to show the exhibit to even more friends. Thanks to everyone who made this such a great evening!

Announcements and News

◆Just a reminder that the July 11 and August 9 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.



GiveMN.org is always there for you to make a secure donation to ACHS from your computer or mobile device.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Coming Events

July 13, 10 am-4 pm

Anoka Riverfest

(Anoka County History Center) See a full scale cannon and Civil War soldiers on the front lawn, the Soldiers' Aid Society "Collecting Committee" inside (where it's air conditioned), free admission to *All For the Union: Anoka County Faces the Civil War* exhibit, and much more! See page 5 for more details

July 14, 1 pm - 5 pm

Anoka Heritage Home and Garden Tour

Get your tickets NOW for this fantastic tour of homes and gardens in the area of the Whiskey Flats neighborhood. Several businesses are included in the tour where special displays and activities are happening including "Dr. Flora" guiding tours at the Artique. Stop by Ticknor Hill B & B to see if you are the lucky winner of a night's stay! See page 3 for all the details.

July 23-28

Anoka County Fair

(Anoka County Fair Grounds, North Ferry Street, Anoka) ACHS will continue our tradition of bringing life to the Old Farmhouse. Be sure to stop by to see what is happening when you are at the Fair! Call Elaine at 763-421-0600 to volunteer.

July 6, 13, 18, & 20, 7:30 pm

Ghost of Anoka Tours

August 8, 10, 22 & 24, 7:30 pm

(Meet at the Anoka County History Center and Library.) Take a walk on downtown Anoka's spookier side and hear stories of things that go bump in the night! These tours are filled with stories of history and of unexplained things. Advanced tickets are required—these popular tours sell out very fast. A virtual tour for those unable to walk the tour, featuring photos and stories, will be offered on July 27, and August 24 at 1:00 pm for those unable to walk the tour. Call 763-421-0600 and reserve your place on the tour.

August 16-18

Nowthen Threshing Show

(7415 Old Viking Blvd., Nowthen) Join in the fun as ACHS staffs the General Store at the Threshing show—but remember, when you walk through those doors, the year is 1920! The store is "open for business" from 10 to 7 on Friday and Saturday and 10 to 5 on Sunday.

September 28, 1-5 pm

Polka Fun Fest

(Pearson Family Farm, Ramsey) SAVE THE DATE! Our annual fundraiser will happen at the Pearson Family Farm off Hwy 10 in Ramsey. There will be a live Polka Band, silent auction, and many more fun family activities.



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

Small Town Girl Makes It Big!

Edna "Theodora" Bean By Caitlin Frey

Hailing from Anoka, Edna Bean made a name for herself as a journalist, editor and dedicated suffragist in New York City. A true character, she was described by friends as a woman who "smoked cigars, carried a walking stick and had a passion for detective stories." Born to Anoka County Sheriff Martin Bean and his wife Louisa, Edna was their second daughter. She had two sisters, Ina and Ada, and an older brother William. In 1889, at the age of 14, Edna graduated from Anoka High School and left her circle of family and friends to enroll at Carleton College in Northfield.



Edna Bean, who later changed her name to Theodora.

Edna stayed at Carleton for one year but did not graduate. She likely returned home to help care for Ina who had consumption (tuberculosis). Ina passed away in January, 1891, and Edna was no longer bound to Anoka. She was the only one of her siblings to leave the town - both Ina and Ada died at an early age and William stayed in Anoka all his life.

Edna quickly established herself in the newspaper world, which was very much a man's business in the 1890s. Her first assignment was to cover a society bicycle race for the Chicago Daily News. It impressed her boss so much that he put it on the front page. Edna stayed in the city until 1903, working for a few papers, including the Chicago Record and the Chicago Inter-Ocean. She covered club news, worked in the sports department and learned to edit articles. In 1901, she obtained an exclusive interview with Carrie Nation by taking her to a women-only bathhouse where other reporters could not go.

In the first years of the 1900s, Edna travelled in Europe as a freelance reporter. She spent time in London, Paris and Capri. She became well-known in artistic circles in Paris, socializing with Gertrude Stein and the artist Janet Scudder. Edna crossed the Atlantic several times during the 1900s, but she also established a residence in New York City in 1903. She took a job as a feature writer for The Morning Telegraph, a paper noted for its theater and horse-racing coverage. Earlier, she had taken to writing under the name of Theodora "Teddy" Bean and, once in New York, used the name exclusively.

In the city, Teddy became very involved with the women's suffrage movement. She worked closely with campaign leaders like Ida Blair and Vira Whitehouse. She organized and marched in parades, held signs on subway cars and helped with publicity. In 1917, after years of hard work, women in New York were given the right to vote in state and local elections.

Cont. on page 4

Iconic Hat for Unusual Man



Jay Clyde Appleton lived at 10430 Mississippi Blvd. in Coon Rapids in the 1950s. Neighbors remembered his ranch-style house. It had 8

-10 wooden horses taken from a merry-go-round and mounted on the breezeway that connected the garage to the house. He was a skilled craftsman, had a garage full of high quality tools and probably used them as he gained his reputation as "an inventor and eccentric" as was noted in his obituary.

Born on March 20, 1889, in Glencoe, Minnesota, Jay was the son of Samuel Appleton and Mary Svoltgen. He attended public school through the eighth grade and was a "salesman" in the "automation" field. He married Jane and they had three children, one daughter and two sons. Sources tell of his attending business college in Minneapolis. Jay eventually retired from the Sealed Power Corporation in Minneapolis where he was a district manager.

One of the inventions locals knew about from Jay was a form of magic marker long before these kind of markers ever hit the market and became popular.

Cont. on page 6

Inside This Issue

President and Executive Director.....2
Civil War Lecture Series.....3
Monuments to Life Tours.....4
Polka Family FunFest.....5
Volunteering.....6
Donations and Thank Yous.....7
Upcoming Events.....8

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www.ac-hs.org

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

Remembering the Civil War

Nearly three years ago, in this newsletter, I wrote a column about the beginning of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. In that column, I asked how each of you planned to commemorate these terrible events and the circumstances that caused them. I also indicated that ACHS would be active in planning programs and events that highlighted the war and Anoka County's contributions to this national story.

So, now that we are over halfway through this 150th anniversary, how have you been thinking about the war? Here at ACHS we recently opened our exhibit *All for the Union: Anoka County Faces the Civil War*, which tells many terrific stories about the war and Anoka County residents that played a role in it. We are also planning a monthly series of Civil War themed lectures and programs. See page three for more details.

Besides participating in ACHS programs, I've been trying to push my personal reading toward the Civil War, though not always successfully. Earlier this year, I started to read selections from *Patriotic Gore: Studies in the Literature of the American Civil War*. The book came out in 1962, during the centennial of the Civil War. It was edited by the legendary Edmund Wilson and features his literary criticisms of the works of prominent figures of the Civil War. Featured writers number more than 30 and include Walt Whitman, Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses Grant, and Robert E. Lee.

I found myself taken with the writings and life of Grant. So much so that on my recent family vacation to Wisconsin Dells, we scheduled a side trip to beautiful Galena, IL, the location of Grant's residence following the Civil War. While there, I picked up his memoir and have just begun reading it.

I hope you are finding some time to reflect on the Civil War and think about how it has impacted our nation and community to this day. Don't forget that there are still lots of chances to participate in ACHS's Civil War programs.

From the President...

By Al Pearson

Hello everyone! Can you believe the Anoka Fair is over and the State Fair is on? Where did the summer go?! I was going to get all these things done! Oh well, there is always tomorrow.

When we went to the State Fair, one of the most important places for us to visit as farmers were the animal barns. The cattle were always separate from the horses; which reminds me that I learned that the hard way for myself.

The last year I had beef cattle, I had a 2000 pound bull that was getting a little hard to handle because of being somewhat older, and he was getting more aggressive when out in the open lot with his ladies. When he was kept tied in the barn, he had always been passive. His area to be tied in was next to the horse's box stall. One day as I was letting the cows out of the barn, the horse reached over the wall and bit the bull on the neck.

Believe me, horses know how to bite! The bull really snorted and pawed the floor and was still mad when I let him out. When I let the horse out, which was the normal daily routine, the bull was waiting for her with his head down and pawing the ground. He charged the horse and knocked her to the ground. The horse lay there for a time, then got up, looked at the bull, who was still pawing the ground with his head down. The horse ran around the bull and back to his head where the horse kicked with both back feet right in the middle of bull's head, just above his eyes. The bull went down on his knees—I'm sure, seeing stars for a few minutes.

After that they both seemed afraid of each other, or shall we say, had great respect for one another. When it was time to get the bull back in the barn and he wasn't in a cooperative mood, all I had to do was get the horse and that's all it took for him to change his mind and get back where I wanted him.

Hope to see you at our farm for the Polka Fun Fest. It's going to be a great day filled with polka music, hay rides, silent auctions, pumpkin throw, bouncy house, and kids games, and lots more!

Civil War Lecture Series

Monthly from September 2013 to May, 2014

Join ACHS for our 2013-14 monthly lecture series on the Civil War. Lectures are free, but space is limited. Most programs will be held at the History Center, 2135 Third Avenue, Anoka.*

2013 dates include:

Soldiers' Aid Society - Thursday, Sept. 5th, 7:00 PM

Patriotic fervor caused many Northern women to join Soldier's Aid Societies. This program shares stories of these ladies' work and what they accomplished. Includes several artifacts.

Oakwood Cemetery Tour - Saturday, Oct. 5th, 2:00 PM

Take a guided walk through Anoka's Oakwood Cemetery to hear stories of men who served in the Civil War. **Program on-site and not at the History Center.*

Gettysburg Address & Battle - Thursday, Nov. 7th, 7:00 PM

Former Gettysburg battlefield guide, John Cox, speaks about the iconic speech and battle.

Civil War Christmas - Thursday, Dec. 5th, 7:00 PM

A presentation on how Christmas would have been celebrated during the Civil War. All ages.

Anoka County Historical Society
763-421-0600
AnokaCountyHistory.org



Teddy dedicated her life to the fight for women's equality. In addition to seeking the vote, she made a name for herself in the newspaper business - which required a thick skin. In one instance, she feuded with the composer Oscar Hammerstein after she gave one of his shows a bad review. By 1916, she was the editor of *The Morning Telegraph's* Sunday magazine. A reporter, Heywood Broun, recalled that Teddy was **“forever throwing impertinent visitors out of the window. They would never allow her to have an office above the second floor.”**

While Teddy was tough, she also helped other female reporters break into the business. She was “popular with women. She had a heart. Her helpfulness to girl beginners in the writing field was patient and dependable.” She mentored Louella Parsons, a close friend and columnist, who would go on to become the “Queen of Hollywood” and the first movie reporter. She also provided space in the *Telegraph* for Djuna Barnes, an adventurous young female writer who would go on to become a famous novelist.

Teddy never married or had children. Most of her time in New York City, she lived alone in the Hotel Richmond. For several years before her death, she shared an apartment with another woman named Marjorie Patterson. Marjorie was a noted author and actress who came from a wealthy Baltimore family. Marjorie and Teddy's home became a gathering place for writers and theater people.



Theodora “Teddy” Bean and other writers march in a 1911 suffrage parade in New York City.

In 1926, Teddy was at the top of her professional career. She left the *Telegraph* and started her own newspaper syndicate. She was president of the Newspaper Women's Club, a group she helped to found. Thus, it was a shock to her friends and colleagues when she died at the age of 50 from complications of a surgery. She was remembered in all of the New York City newspapers, but it was her hometown paper, the *Anoka Union* that said it best: “She was a woman of keen perception and wonderful fund of humor. She was also a rapid, indefatigable worker.”

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.

Saturday, October 5—Oak Park Cemetery, Columbus

Thursday, October 10—Rice Lake Methodist Cemetery, Lino Lakes

Saturday, October 12—Forest Hill Cemetery, Anoka

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 registration.

Reserve your place at the Anoka County History Center, online at AnokaCountyHistory.org

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 please dress for the weather. Be prepared to walk in low light on uneven ground and standing as we visit graves and hear the stories they have to tell. Tours last about an hour.

The Anoka County Historical Society presents:

Polka



Fun Fest

A Family Friendly Event



Located 1.3 miles west of
Armstrong Blvd on Highway 10.

At the Pearson Family Farm in Ramsey

Saturday, Sept. 28

2-5pm

Activities include:

- Live polka music and dancing with the **Bill Koncar Band**
- An 1860s vintage base ball game
- Hay rides
- Silent auctions
- Kids activities
- and more...

\$10 for adults

FREE

for kids age ten and under
with paid adults

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit AnokaCountyHistory.org or call (763) 421-0600.



Dear Volunteers

by Elaine Koehn, Volunteer Coordinator

More than 25 volunteers came together to help at the annual Anoka County Fair. They brought with them their talents and skills to enhance the Old Farm House. Volunteers shared the art of soap making, butter churning, lace making and quilting. Fair goers built log cabins with milk cartons and pretzels while learning about the local logging industry, and a favorite of the little girls was learning to make yarn dolls to take home.

We were able to talk about the Old Farm House and the many programs that the Anoka County Historical Society has to offer. A welcome addition was the installation of an air conditioner, which will be appreciated the hot week of the fair for years to come.

As we approach fall, we are busy planning for our annual fund raising event on Saturday, September 28th. This year the Polka Fun Fest will be held at the Pearson Family Farm in Ramsey. For volunteers wanting to get involved, we have many opportunities. Volunteers are needed for set-up on Friday evening, and to park cars and direct traffic, or assist with the silent auction on Saturday. There will also be many children's activities where volunteers are needed. If you are available, I would love to hear from you. Let's make this year's event the best yet.

October is just around the corner and Ghost Tour docents will be busy leading tours around Anoka. During the month of September and October, we will offer tours every weekend Thursday-Saturday with additional tours added the last week of October. Our volunteers work hard to make this a fun and profitable event. If you would like to get involved, there is a ghost guide training coming up on September 14. Call for more information.

I would like to extend a sincere welcome to the new volunteers who have joined the History Center in the past two months: Rose Aune, Mathew Sills, Sheryl Lockwood, Karen Davis, Thomas Conrad, Natasha Horbul and Harold "Buzz" Netkow. I hope you will all enjoy your time with us here at the History Center.

With comings are also goings and some volunteers need to leave us. Best wishes go to Cheryl Hengescht who for the past two years has been our girl Friday working on manuscript files and any other project that came her way. Cheryl moved to Grand Marais. We also want to say a brief good bye to Rachel Hedin who is returning to college in River Falls, WI. She promises to be back during winter and spring break. They will both be greatly missed.

Volunteering can be an exciting, growing, enjoyable experience. It is truly gratifying to serve a cause, practice one's ideals, work with people, solve problems, see benefits, and know one had a hand in them.

Harriet Naylor

Iconic Hat

Continued from page 1

Another project Jay was involved in was not an invention so much as it was an adventure. He was building a sailboat that he intended to sail around the world. He never went on the globe trotting sail, instead remaining in Coon Rapids until his death in 1965.

Jay's iconic hat was recently donated to ACHS along with its history. The hat itself is a formal 1920 vintage top hat, beaver fur with a grosgrain ribbon band. Inside the hat is a maker's label and the notation that it was "Specially manufactured for E.H. Steel, Minneapolis, Minnesota." E.H. Steel was a manufacturing company in Minneapolis. Did Jay call on them as a salesman or was he a customer? Did they give him the hat he so proudly wore or was it a second-hand purchase Jay made somewhere? Those questions cannot be answered, but it was clear Jay loved the hat.

Jay was photographed in profile wearing the hat in the election campaign of 1952 when he ran as a republican candidate in the Third District. In a list of his qualifications, it was noted that Jay served as justice of the peace and as treasurer in "Anoka Township." (Coon Rapids was not yet incorporated and was still known as Anoka Township when Jay held those offices.)



Jay's iconic hat and the box it was stored in have been added to the collections at ACHS and will help tell his story in Anoka County for years to come.

Contributions & New Members -- Thank you

(All lists are current to August 20, 2013)

DONATIONS

ACE Solid Waste
Jan Anderson
Anoka Chapter of the D.A.R.
June Bendix
Richard Bergling
Harry & Jeanette Blair
Gregory & Jackie Bornem
Robert Brock
Shirley Curbow
Dan & Waldeane Felix
Bruce & Karen Gengnagel
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Constance Rivard
Donald Sage
Gregory & Barbara Ann Smith
Pat Snodgrass
Rodger Sundstrom
Susan Tabibi
Ralph Talbot
Barb Thurston

MEMORIALS & HONORS

In Memory of Jon Ekerholm
From Patricia Felts

EMPLOYEE MATCH

Allina Health/Eileen Rathbun
Ameriprise Financial/Dan Frank

ARTIFACT DONORS

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Philolectian Society
Regions Hospital/New Connections
Pat Schwappach
Mary Sell
Marlys Talbot
Walter Warpeha, Jr.
Walter S. & Florence Warpeha

NEW MEMBERS

Marilyn Anderson, Ramsey
Grace Anderson Schrunk, Blaine
Rose Aune & Dean Foshaug, Anoka
John & Joan Evans, Blaine
Jennifer Herro, Hartland, WI
Karen Nielsen, Minneapolis
Ronald Peterson, Brooklyn Park
Gary & Beverly Reimann, Ramsey
Marilyn Washburn, Champlin
Colleen Werdien, Anoka

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

***Jon Ekerholm, who passed away on
May 26,, 2013. Jon was and ACHS
member and valued friend.***

***Paul McCarron, who passed away
on July 14, 2013. Paul was a life member
of ACHS and former county
commissioner.***

***Violet Smith, who passed away on
July 19, 2013. Vi was a long time ACHS
member, volunteer and friend whose
wealth of knowledge and history of Anoka
County will be missed.***

Announcements & News

◆Just a reminder that the September 12 and October 10 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.



GiveMN.org is always there for you to make a secure donation to ACHS from your computer or

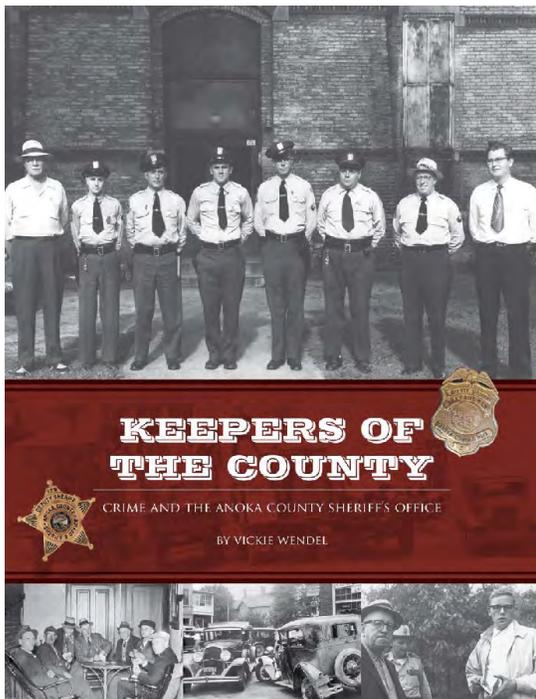
Keepers of the County

Since 1857 when Anoka County was first organized to the writing of this history in 2009, there were sixteen men to serve as the official "Keeper of the County." Each brought something to the office in his personality and how he faced the challenges of serving an ever-growing county. These men helped shape Anoka County. Each kept the county in his own way, providing a steady, guiding force for the citizens they served.

This book tells the story of life in Anoka County and it's Sheriff 's Office from 1857 to the completion of the new Sheriff's Office building in Andover. Stories of how the responsibilities grew, changed, adapted, and modernized to continue the first and most primary mission of a sheriff - to be the keeper of the county citizen's peace and safety.

This limited edition 9x12 hardcover book is \$30.95 (plus tax) will be available at the History Center and at the Anoka County Sheriff's Office starting **September 18, 2013. Join us that evening from 4-7pm for the Sheriff's Office Open House and get your book signed by the author as well as see many displays and demonstrations about the work of the Sheriff's Office.**

Partial funding for this project from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Coming Events

September 5, 7:00 pm

(Anoka County History Center, Anoka) The patriotic fervor that swept across the North in 1861 did not just affect the men who enlisted in droves—women were caught up in the excitement and created their own army of support. See page 3 for more details.

Civil War Lecture Series: Soldiers' Aid Society

September 5-7, 12-14, 19-21, & 27-29, 7:30 p.m. Ghosts of Anoka Tour

October 3-5, 10-12, 17-19, 24-26, & 28-31, times vary by day, please call or see AnokaCountyHistory.org

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. These popular tickets *go fast!* **Remember, you can buy tickets online at the AnokaCountyHistory.org** VISA and Mastercard accepted.

September 18, 4:00-7:00 pm

(Sheriff's Office, 13301 Hanson Blvd., Andover) See special displays and demonstrations from the Sheriff's Office and get the newly published history of the Anoka County Sheriff's Office at this annual open house event. See page 7 for more details.

Sheriff's Office Open House & Book Signing

September 28, 2:00-5:00 pm

(Al Pearson Farm, 14821 Bowers Drive, Ramsey) Join ACHS for this special fundraiser. There will be polka music, hay rides, silent auctions, pumpkin throw, bouncy house, and kids games, and lots more! See page 5 for details.

Polka Fun Fest!

September 29, 2:00 pm

(Woodbury Park, Bridge Street, St. Francis) Join ACHS and the State CW Task Force to commemorate Anoka County's Albert Woodbury and the battle of Chickamauga in the park named for this fallen Civil War officer.

Minnesota Civil War 150 Task Force Commemoration

October 5, 2:00 pm

Hear the fascinating stories of men who served in the Civil War on a guided walk through Anoka's Oakwood Cemetery—the first volunteer from Wisconsin, a murder/suicide, a drummer boy and more. See page 3 for more details.

Civil War Lecture Series: Tour Oakwood Cemetery

October 5, 10, & 12, 7:00 p.m.

The 11th annual *Monuments to Life* cemetery tour series. This year's tour starts at the **Oak Park Cemetery** in Columbus on Saturday, October 5. **Rice Lake Methodist Cemetery** in Lino Lakes on Thursday, October 10th is next and the tours wrap up at **Forest Hill Cemetery** in Anoka on Saturday, October 12th. All tours begin at 7:00 and go on rain or shine. See page 4 for more details.

Annual "Monuments to Life" Cemetery Tours

October 12, 2:00 p.m.

(Mississippi Library, Fridley) This Virtual Ghost Tour takes guests to places where something unexplained has happened by way of slides and story telling. This event is FREE and funded by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Virtual Ghost Tour



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

Prohibition—and the Demon Rum

By Vickie Wendel

In the last years of the 1800s, liquor was believed to be at the root of many social ills such as poverty, homelessness, poor health, broken homes, increased crime rates, joblessness, abuse and neglect—especially abuse and neglect directed toward women and children.

There was some credibility in the fears. Major brewing companies and distilleries had shrewd marketing techniques.

The saloon was touted as the common working man’s club, a place where women were not allowed; a place where a man could drink, smoke, play cards, cash his pay check, run up a tab, spit on the floor, or whatever.

There were many saloons and bars providing choices for where a man wanted to drink. To entice customers into their establishment, bars and saloons began offering free lunches—of foods high in salt, so after eating them, patrons were thirsty.

Especially in larger cities, pubs were located so a man could hardly avoid passing by the invitingly open doors on his way home. A man who stopped in on a Friday night could cash his pay check and be broke by the time he got home hours later.

Since drinking was seen as the main root of all these evils, getting rid of intoxicating beverages was believed to be a major step to eliminating the ills of the world.

Continued on page 4



In 1873, a group of women gathered to pray and sing hymns in front of the billiard hall in Anoka. Owners of these establishments fought back, pouring beer on the sidewalk so the ladies couldn't kneel without getting their dresses soaked in beer.

Teddy Bears & History

Everything has a history, even teddy bears!

The history behind these famous bears is not neat and tidy, the truth being interwoven with folklore and exaggerations.

What is known attributes the toy’s beginnings to Teddy Roosevelt’s attempts to resolve a border dispute between Mississippi and Louisiana in 1902. As a side trip, Roosevelt went hunting.

This is where the details of the story conflict. Either Roosevelt refused to shoot a bear that was injured/old/young/cornered/tied to a tree, or he did shoot/ordered the animal shot to relieve it from its suffering.

Being president of the United States, Roosevelt's every move was watched, and the Washington Post ran an editorial cartoon created by the political cartoonist Clifford K. Berryman. The original drawing showed a fearsome bear that had just killed a hunting dog as well as making note of the border dispute Roosevelt was trying to settle.

The cartoon quickly became popular and Berryman soon redrew it, changing the fierce bear to a cuddly cub.

Continued on page 3

Inside This Issue

President and Executive Director.....2
Teddy Bears, continued.....3
Prohibition, continued.....4
Book signing & ornament night.....5
Volunteering.....6
Donations and Thank Yous.....7
Upcoming Events.....8

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

Anoka County History Center & Library

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www.ac-hs.org

History Center Hours:

Tuesday 10-8

Wednesday-Friday 10-5

Saturday 10-4

Board of Directors

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At-Large H — Harvey Greenburg

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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

How You Can Help ACHS

The Anoka County Historical Society is a people organization. We tell the stories of the people who have lived and live here. We are supported by the people who have lived and live here.

That support comes in so many ways. People donate their treasured family heirlooms, business records, and everyday objects that tell the larger Anoka County story. They also, of course, donate much needed money to help fund ACHS's mission.

But they also help in giving their time. Either by volunteering to help organize and produce our programs and events, or by helping us to collect the county's history. ACHS is looking for help with both of those. For ten years we have produced the Anoka Heritage Home and Garden Tour each summer. This terrific event features lovely and historic homes and gardens on open house tours. We are looking for one or two new people to join this committee.

Committee members would be primarily responsible for helping to recruit homeowners and business sponsorships for the tour. The committee already has great people on it and we love houses and local history. It's a great way to be a part of one of the cornerstones of our annual programming.

Another significant way people help us is by sharing their stories. We have recently secured a grant to fund a project to document the history of the Anoka State Hospital. We are still looking for people who had an association with the Anoka State Hospital to sit down for a recorded interview. The interviews will be transcribed and stored at the History Center for research. If you were an employee, patient, or had another significant relationship with the Anoka State Hospital and would like to share your story, we would love to speak with you.

There's lots of ways to get involved with preserving Anoka County's history. If these projects, or others, are of interest to you, get in contact with me at 763-421-0600 or todd@ac-hs.org.

From the President...

By Al Pearson

Is it possible Halloween and then Thanksgiving are just around the corner?

September and October are very busy times at the Pearson Family Farm. I am busy with plowing and seeding winter rye for next year's crop and combining soybeans and corn. One of my favorite jobs on the farm is running the combine. My son, Dan and his family are busy with the other part of our farm business—selling straw bales, corn bundles, pumpkins and gourds, all of which he grows. This part of our business started when people would just stop by for a bale of straw and then ask, "Could you cut me a few corn stalks for fall decoration?"

So, my wife and daughter then started cutting and tying corn stalks together by hand in bundles for sale with the straw. It was, of course, way too much work, and so, remembering an old neighbor who still had a 1940 corn binder that I could buy, it lightened the load for the next years. That machine cuts the corn and ties it together in bundles of about 15 to 20 single stalks so we were able to supply the growing market. Now Dan cuts multiple bundles every morning before the dew is off from September 10th to October 31st. He also grows sorghum, which has beautiful seed heads and a stalk that looks like corn. That is cut and bundled for sale also. Some of our customers have been coming back for 30 years now.

Dan has several different varieties of pumpkins this year. With Mother Nature's help, we have pink, blue, white, and of course, orange and then all the mixed colors which are so interesting.

This year, the Anoka County Historical Society put on a Polka Family Fun Fest on our farm. It was cold and rainy—why rain that day after months of drought?—but it was fun.

We enjoy hosting events on the farm and really liked working with all the volunteers. To Todd, Paul, Elaine, Vickie and all the other volunteers, THANK YOU!!

The Story of an Artifact ...by Vickie Wendel, ACHS Program Manager

Teddy Bears, Continued from page 1

The most accepted (though not the only) version of the next part of the story states that in 1903, candy/toy store owner, Morris Mitchtom, had his wife make a stuffed toy bear with jointed arms and legs. He sent one to President Roosevelt and asked to use the President's nickname of "Teddy" with the bears. Roosevelt agreed and Mitchtom began selling Teddy bears at his shop.

The toys were an overnight sensation and soon other manufacturers were making teddy bears. Mitchtom, working with the Butler Brothers Company, began to mass produce the bears. Before he was finished, Mitchtom had built his business into the Ideal Toy and Novelty Corporation. The bear Mitchtom sent to Roosevelt is now in the collection of the Smithsonian Institution of American History.

One of the most significant changes to the design of the teddy bear came about because of popularity of washing machines. Wendy Boston simplified the design, taking out the joints and posing the bear sitting on its backside. These bears were made to be "washable" and were stuffed with foam rubber. Advertising showed them being put through a wringer. The new washable bear was very successful. Considering the millions of children who have dragged their bears around with them everywhere, washable was a great improvement!



The redrawn Berryman cartoon with the cub Roosevelt took pity on.

Anoka County Teddy Bears



These bears come from the ACHS collection and will be on display as a part of a exhibit on toys, scheduled to open December 3, 2013.

From left to right: Maude Lockwood played with this bear as a little girl in Columbia Heights. The bear is 18 inches tall and fully jointed. Maude was born September 28, 1886, and lived 91 years, many of them in Columbia Heights.

This is the "Snuggles" fabric softener bear. The first voice for TV commercials for this bear was done by a Coon Rapids woman. The voice & puppet of the Snuggle Bear was done by Cheryl Jean Bartholow for the TV commercials. She worked for a product promotion company in New York who made the commercials for the Lever Brothers Company, ca. 1980.

This 1920s teddy bear was made in the same pattern as the first bears made by Mitchtom. It belonged to Mary

Ward of Anoka.

The next bear was made by Grace Menefee for the children of Bertha Mae Johnston in the 1960s. Grace lived in Coon Rapids for more than 25 years before she moved to Anoka. The bear has real fur on hands, ears, and feet.

Bears like this one were used by Sheriff Bruce Andersohn when he was running for reelection as Anoka County Sheriff in 2006. He was told because of his crew cut, his no-nonsense style and SWAT team member, that he needed to soften his image with the public. Teddy bears became a running joke and many people gave him bears as fun gifts.

Prohibition, continued from page 1

Prohibition was a social cause and many people sincerely believed making the consumption of intoxicating beverages illegal would solve a host of social ills and remove a dire threat to the American home and family.

Alcohol and its problems had gotten the attention of the Federal Government, but there was a real resistance to doing anything about it because of the federal tax on all liquor in the US. That income was one of the arguments in favor of alcohol—the tax on booze kept the budget balanced.

The temperance movement leaders were very shrewd politically and they agreed to work in support of a national income tax. This was in exchange for the supporters of the income tax giving their support to temperance legislation. Women's rights organizations were supportive of the temperance movement because it was believed women would benefit from the social improvements that banning liquor was supposed to bring. These groups worked together to get the Sixteenth Amendment—giving the federal government the ability to tax its citizens on their income--passed and was ratified by the states in 1913.

Then these groups turned their united attention to getting prohibition legislation passed. It was feasible now because there was a replacement revenue stream coming from income tax to replace the money lost in alcoholic beverages tax.

The law did allow the local option. A local option is the ability of political jurisdictions, usually cities or counties, to allow decisions on certain controversial issues based on popular vote within their borders. It is most often applied to the sale or consumption of alcoholic beverages.

The city of Anoka held an election using the local option in February of 1915 and it passed, making the city dry, but not immediately. The method of eliminating liquor was simple. As the license for any business that sold alcoholic beverages came due for renewal, it would be denied. Without a license, there was no way for a business to sell liquor legally.

Three more communities within the county voted themselves dry in the next weeks and in July of 1915, Anoka County voted to become a "dry" county, meaning liquor could not be sold within the county after the first day of 1916.

The Eighteenth Amendment became the law of the land on January 16, 1920, and abolished liquor manufacture, transport, import, or sale in the United States.

Note that the amendment said nothing about CONSUMING said beverages. If you had booze stashed that did not need to be made, bought, or transported, it was legal. Some larger clubs and private organizations stockpiled liquor in their basements or extra rooms to have it available to their members without charge on the premises, keeping within the law.

It was enforced by the Volstead Act, an act that was MUCH more restrictive than the amendment.

Though Andrew Volstead's name is forever linked to Prohibition, he was not the Act's principal author. The principal author was Wayne Wheeler, an active leader in the Anti-Saloon League. Volstead sponsored the bill, championed it and fought for its passage. He repeatedly made speeches in Congress defending the Act, but it is believed Wheeler was responsible for the far more restrictive language of the act than what was in the amendment. Many people who supported the amendment believed beer and wine would be still be legal under the 18th amendment. They expected the ban to be aimed at hard liquor as being much higher in alcohol content and quicker to cause problems.

What they got was a new host of problems with the ban on



Just how big the business of bootlegging booze was became very clear in September of 1927 when two Anoka County deputies made a raid on the Pete Peterson farm in Columbus Township. The report stated the barn held seven vats that were nine feet in diameter and stood six feet tall, all full of booze waiting to be distilled. That process was handled in another barn about two miles away where four more huge vats were in use. Steam boilers were used to process the moonshine. Vast amounts of sugar, corn syrup, and equipment were all seized—along with seven men. The men were immediately taken to jail and a local trucking company was ordered out to pick up the confiscated stills and equipment.

It took eleven truck loads to get it all to Anoka. It was the largest liquor operation ever captured in the state according to one source.

booze. Illegally-produced alcohol was often hastily and carelessly made. It might contain toxic lead compounds, creosote and even embalming fluid. Consumers of tainted liquor could suffer paralysis, blindness or even death.

Illegal producers and sellers routinely bribed law enforcement officers and other officials in order to operate -- they saw it as a cost of doing business, but the public saw it as corrupt immorality and it led to a decreasing respect for both Prohibition and laws in general. Prohibition also changed drinking patterns for the worse. It was the first time drinking became fashionable for women. Young people especially tended to drink more and faster than before prohibition. Over-consuming was seen as a way of expressing contempt for the law. Prohibition also promoted a pattern of less frequent, but much heavier drinking. People didn't go to a speakeasy for a leisurely drink, but to guzzle alcohol while they could.

Many people began to believe Prohibition didn't reduce crime, didn't improve health, didn't raise morality, and didn't protect women or children. By 1933, it was clear the Eighteenth Amendment had not done what it was expected to do. It brought a great disrespect for the law. It saw the rise of crime syndicates with huge profits. Conflicts among these illegal suppliers or between them and law enforcers sometimes turned violent -- even deadly. After all, huge fortunes were at stake.

Another major argument for repeal was that legalizing beer would provide many jobs. This was in the depths of the Great Depression and anything that might provide jobs was considered.

The 21st Amendment was passed by congress on February 20, 1933, and sent to the states for ratification. The required number of states had passed the amendment by December 5, 1933. It took just nine months to ratify the 21st amendment.

A Night to Put on Your Calendar!

Tuesday, December 3rd at 7:00 pm will be a history making night when we bring officials and friends from Spring Lake Park to present their city ornament and four men who have or are serving as Sheriff of Anoka County together for a special holiday celebration.



2013 Ornament Presentation

Join ACHS on December 3rd at 7:00 pm to welcome in the holiday season when we debut our 2013 community ornament for the County Tree! The tree will be on display in our lobby throughout the holiday season.

This continues a long standing tradition of asking each county community in turn to provide a special ornament for the County Tree. It's always a surprise what kind of ornament will come or how it will feature some special piece of the community's history. You'll have to attend to find out what this year's ornament will be!

Pictured at left is the ornament from the city of Ramsey, presented in 2012. It featured the District 28 Schoolhouse, an iconic building and well known landmark from Ramsey's past.

Keepers of the County *Book Signing*

This will be a unique chance to have your copy of *Keepers of the County* signed by three former and current sheriffs of Anoka County! Sheriff James Stuart will be joined by former sheriffs Bruce Andersohn, Larry Podany, and Ralph "Buster" Talbot. All will be signing the recently released book, *Keepers of the County*.

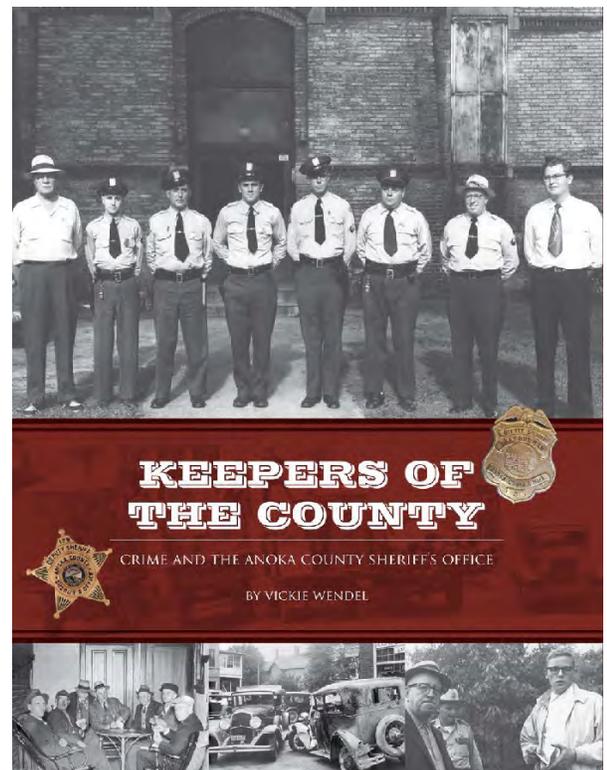
This book tells the story of life in Anoka County and its Sheriff's Office from 1857 to the completion of the new Sheriff's Office building in Andover in 2009. Stories of how responsibilities grew, changed, adapted, and modernized to continue the first and most primary mission of a sheriff -- to be the keeper of the county citizen's peace and safety.

Each sheriff brought something unique to the office in his personality and how he faced the challenges of serving an ever-growing county. Each kept the county in his own way, providing a steady, guiding force for the citizens they served. December 3rd will be a special chance to have four of these men—including the current Keeper of the County—sign your copy of this book.

What a priceless Christmas gift a book signed by these four men would be! The chance to get these four signatures may never come again.

This limited edition 9x12 hardcover book is \$30.95 (plus tax) is available at the History Center and at the Anoka County Sheriff's Office.

Partial funding for this project from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.



Announcements & News

◆Just a reminder that the November 14 and December 12 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.

Dear Volunteers

by Elaine Koehn, Volunteer Coordinator

Imagine a job where kind, generous people come to you asking to work, but don't want to be paid. They come cheerfully to help others and expect nothing in return, but in fact, get back priceless returns.

This is the job that I will be retiring from on December 15th. However, I won't be far away. I plan to volunteer at the History Center and fill in where needed for vacation and sick days for front desk staff.

Looking back on my work career, I actually knew early on that I wanted to do something that made a difference in the world. You—the volunteers—have done this for me. For the past 25 years I have worked recruiting, training and supporting volunteers. First at Mercy Medical Center, then Anoka Hennepin District #11 with the Adult Basic Education Program, and last, but certainly not least, here at the History Center.

I have made some good friends along the way and will certainly miss the day to day contact I have had with each and every one of you. I am amazed at the talented people involved at the History Center. Volunteers who religiously come to the History Center on a weekly basis to assist with research and genealogy. Our loyal volunteers who scan photos, lead tours and serve on the Board of Directors, and so much more.



I want to thank you for all you have done for our patrons, their families and our staff. I have been fortunate to meet so many wonderful people willing to give their time and talent to help others. You have enriched so many people's lives and made our communities and this world a better place.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
Elaine Koehn



Good Luck, Caitlin!

Caitlin Frey left her Office Administrator position with ACHS in early October for a full-time position at the American Swedish Institute (ASI) in Minneapolis where she has worked part-time for the last few years.

She is now the Executive and Consular Services Coordinator at ASI and will be working with the board and senior management. She says thank-you to all of the staff, board, volunteers and members who made her two years at ACHS wonderful and she encourages everyone to visit her at ASI!

While we wish Caitlin the best in her new position, we will miss her at ACHS.

Sweaters & Jackets with Stories Needed!

Do you have a holiday sweater with an angora snowman? Or a big knitted Santa with a pompom or bells on his hat? We've all seen them, bought them, worn them, and maybe even laughed at them, but ACHS does not have a single one in the collection!

How about a ski jacket? These are a must-have item for even non-skiers, but ACHS doesn't have a ski jacket in the collection.

We are looking for just a couple of these ubiquitous sweaters and jackets from Anoka County with good provenance to add to our clothing and textile collection. Provenance means that you know information such as (but not limited to) who wore it, when, where it was bought, was it a gift, how much did it cost, how long was it worn, why that color/style, how it was used (skiing/work/cold weather) or anything else that might make for good history.

If you have such a sweater or jacket and would be willing to donate it, please call Vickie at 763-421-0600.

Contributions & New Members -- Thank you

(All lists are current to October 15, 2013)

DONATIONS

Teresa Adams
Diane Bemel
Sherry Boyce
Dorothy Carlson
William Erhart
William & Jeraldine Schulz
John Wolinski
Vietnam Veterans Anoka Chapter 470

MEMORIALS

In memory of Leslie Clemmons
From Dottie Carlson

EMPLOYEE MATCH

Ameriprise Financial/Dan Frank

NEW MEMBERS

David Baker, Ham Lake
Roxie Hazelton, Cedar
Donna Rech, Anoka
Shana Schmitz, East Bethel
Ken Weeks, Elk River
John Wolinski, Coon Rapids

ARTIFACT DONORS

Anoka County Highway Dept.
Cheryl Bodine
Sherry Boyce
Tom Brandl
Les Fischer
Carol Fuller
Don Johnson
Bev Jovanovich
Robert Kirchner
Ruth Matthews
Terrie O'Connell
Jean O'Donoghue
Diane Pederson
Sharron Sandberg
Marlys Talbot

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

***Janet Chester, who passed away on August
14, 2013. Janet was the wife of ACHS member
and friend, Newell Chester.***

***Leslie Clemmons, who passed away on
September 5, 2013. Leslie was an ACHS
member and valued friend.***



The Great Minnesota “Give Together” Returns on “Give to the Max Day,” November 14, 2013

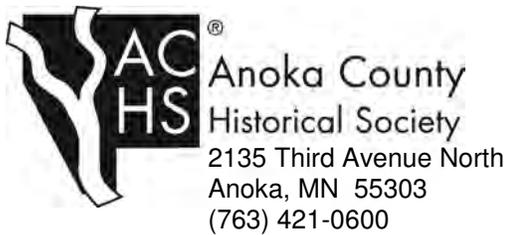
Minnesota’s nonprofit organizations are asking Minnesotans to give to their favorite charities at GiveMN.org during the fifth annual “Give to the Max Day” on November 14, with hopes of raising as much money as possible for nonprofit organizations in 24 hours (starting at midnight on November 14 through midnight on November 15).

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 14 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 more than 53,000 donors. As a result, \$16.3 million was raised for the participating nonprofit organizations.

GiveMN offers several incentives to encourage nonprofit organizations and donor participation in “Give to the Max Day.” There are three tiers of prize grants of matching cash awards for the top three nonprofit organizations (colleges and universities excluded) which receive the most dollars during “Give to the Max Day.” Additional prize grants will be awarded to nonprofits in 4th through 10th place on the main leaderboard.

Other matching cash awards will be given to organizations through randomly chosen individual donors.

This is a great time to make a special donation to ACHS and the preservation of local history with a chance to win additional money throughout the Give to the Max Day event!



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Coming Events

November 2, 10:30 am

Fashion Trends

(Rum River Library, 4201 6th Avenue N., Anoka.) See and hear about the history of what was fashionable from the mid-1800s to the early 1900s. Learn how the sewing machine, politics, world events, and the mail order catalog all changed fashion, and more. FREE This program is funded through the Minnesota Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund.

November 7, 7:00 pm

Civil War Lecture Series: Gettysburg & the Gettysburg Address

(Anoka County History Center & Library) Former Gettysburg battlefield guide, John Cox, will present stories and information about this iconic battle, the impacts it had on America, and the lasting impact of the Gettysburg Address. FREE, but seating will be limited.

November 27, Noon — 1:00 pm

Celebrating PIE!

(Anoka County History Center & 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 the tradition of pie. This is a roundtable discussion where everyone is welcome to share their stories. FREE

December 3, 7:00 pm

Sheriff's Book Signing & Ornament Presentation

(Anoka County History Center & Library.) We will unveil the 2013 ornament for the Anoka County Tree from Spring Lake Park followed by a brief presentation about Sheriff's Office history, then invite everyone to get their books signed by four former and current sheriffs of the county! See page 5 for more details.

December 5, 7:00 pm

Civil War Lecture Series: A Civil War Christmas

(Anoka County History Center & Library) 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 talk to learn more about the history of one of America's favorite holidays. FREE, but seating will be limited.

December 7, 2:00 pm

A Civil War Christmas

(Mississippi Library, 410 Mississippi St., Fridley) 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 talk to learn more about the history of one of America's favorite holidays. FREE. This program is funded through the Minnesota Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund.