

HISTORY 21



Johnny Mosquito: "Hurry up, boys! They're open-work!"

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

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Front Cover: Picture postcard from a scrapbook that belonged to the Springer Family. ca. 1908. Object ID: 2116.QQQ



From the President

As your newly elected president I want to express my gratitude to the previous President, Lotus Hubbard. She really lived and breathed our historical society these past few years. Let me introduce myself. I'm a live-long resident of Anoka County. I grew up in Coon Rapids and graduated from CRHS in 1978. I've lived in Anoka, Coon Rapids and now currently

reside in Andover with my wife Sherri. I don't have a love of history origin story because I've been fascinated with history my whole life. I was blessed to have great history and social studies teachers from CRHS that fostered a love for history, and I became fascinated with interesting historical stories. I'm a faculty member at Hennepin Technical College and I teach video production. In 2012, I produced a Civil War documentary *From Wasioja to Washington – A Minnesota Civil War Story*. This story followed the 2nd Minnesota throughout the Civil War. I thought I was a history buff but when you work with reenactors and historians, you learn quickly to separate fact from legend. And, of course, sometimes that's not so easy.

I'm a strong believer that the best decisions are made by the collaboration of a committed board, which is why I'm excited about the future of the Anoka County Historical Society. We are blessed with a strong and knowledgeable staff, and we do a lot of things right. A huge challenge we face is increasing new members and engaging lovers of history within Anoka County. Please follow us on our journey to present and preserve Anoka County history.

Richard Oxley, ACHS President

From the Director

Here's wishing a big congratulations to our new Board of Directors, fresh off the June organizational meeting. Our new president you just met above, Rich Oxley, and our VP you'll know from Ghost Tours or any freshly cleaned historical weapons we might have on display—Steve Florman. Graciously staying in their positions as Secretary and Treasurer are Daryl Lawrence and Orville Lindquist. I'd like to also extend a warm welcome to Wes Volkenant, whom the members elected to serve in the District 2 seat.

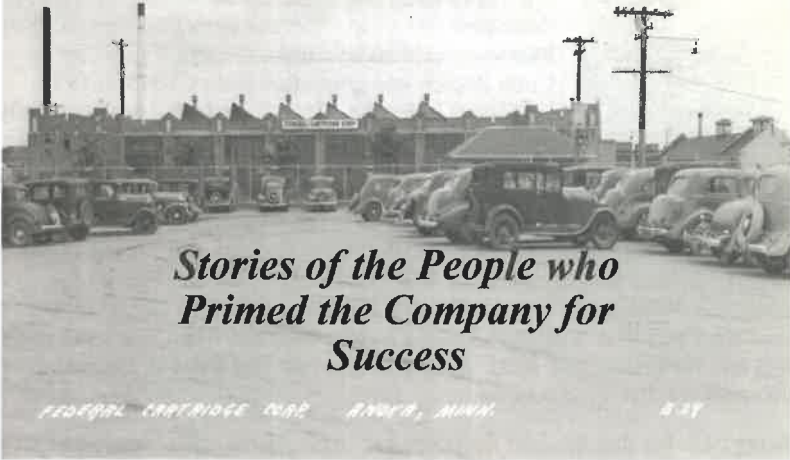
Wes will take the place of outgoing board member Kim Hogdal who needs to spend more time with her *cough* real job at the library and her puppy dogs.

We're heading to Linwood for our July 14 meeting. Their historical society has offered to join us for a meet and greet as well as a tour of the nearby Grange building.



Rebecca Ebnet-Desens, Executive Director

Federal First Class:



Stories of the People who Primed the Company for Success

** Excerpt from the FCC exhibit companion, text by Rebecca Desens*

Know all men by these presents: That we, the undersigned, do hereby associate ourselves together for the purpose of forming a manufacturing corporation under the provisions of Chapter 58 of the General Statutes of Minnesota of 1913 and all acts amendatory thereof, and do hereby adopt the following Articles of Incorporation, to wit:

With these words and the signatures of Paul Seidel, Todd Lewis, S.A. Sherman, H.E. Sherman, and A.C. Egelston, the Federal Cartridge and Machine Company came to life on Thursday, October 12, 1916. This action dropped the first domino a series of events culminating in the 100th anniversary of the Federal Cartridge Company, celebrated in the summer of 2022.

Through the change of ownership to Charles Horn in 1922, many mergers, acquisitions, and the addition of new technology, FCC has not only stood strong as a leader in manufacturing ammunition, but also as an example of employee rights, benefits, and culture.

Many "legacy families" continue to work at the FCC plant, some logging more than 600 years of combined dedication to the Anoka campus. Some community members can identify their great-great grandfather in the employee group picture dated 1925, proudly turning to their friends and declaring the fact with glee. Loyalty to a single company, especially by plant workers on an hourly wage, comes because of clean and safe working conditions, fair pay, benefits, and a sense of purpose in the work completed at the end of each shift.

Under the direction of Charles Horn, a carnation adorned, perfunctory man with a streamlined work sense, FCC weathered the aftershock of World War I, the Great Depression, and World War II. Robert Ehlen, Horn's closest confidant, worked as plant manager, vice president, vice chair and chair of the board during his 57 years, also served on the Anoka school board and as Mayor, before he retired in 1980. Horn seemed abrasive, perhaps even bristly, in both his internal and external

communications. One letter written on July 3, 1923 in response to E.R. Hendricks, who inquired of employment at FCC, was met with:

"I do not know you and of course [must] tell you that it is none of your business how many people we employ at our plant or how many loading machines we have...but for your information they are prying questions which we do not care to answer. You speak about a job, we have no information about your training, you say you have been a shooter, we have all the shooters we want...John Haller takes care of employing the men in the factory and if you have any desire for a position you will have to address him. Mr. Haller will be better able to judge what you can do along the ammunition line."

That said, Horn always ended his communication as the perfect gentleman, signing each correspondence with, "yours very truly."

FCC Social Club

FCC established the Federal Cartridge Social Club in 1934 to maintain employee events and recreation opportunities. This organization would receive reimbursement from Horn for things like bowling uniforms, ammunition, and refreshments. In total, the Club claimed responsibility for a long list of activities, including the archery club, bowling teams, chorus, Credit Union, Diamond Ball Team, and the Clubhouse.

Beginning on June 15, 1935, FCC held a summer picnic for the employees at Hall's Riverside Park. The *Anoka Union* ran an announcement article as well as a follow-up article detailing the event for the community. According to the newspaper, the plant would close for the entire day to "enable all employees to take full advantage of this



FCC picnic, circa 1940s.
FCC2020.0533.02.087.011



yours very truly,

first big picnic." A program of "sports and competitive events" would precede a dance. It appears the competitive nature of the employees was encouraged during these events, as the newspaper reports, "Lawrence Brown, foreman of the wash room, has gathered a 'D' ball team of youngsters of 60 years or more and issued a challenge to George Johnson, machine shop, to produce a similar team." A "hot game" was promised. Wrestling and boxing also had time in the festivities, plus "plenty doing" for the children.



Dance at the FCC Clubhouse, circa 1950s
 FCC2020.0533.02.099.009

It appears the hype exceeded printed expectations, as the *Union* reported over 2,000 people attended to enjoy the “carnival spirit” in the air. “Comic” policemen directing traffic, a parade, and even a merry-go-round helped families enjoy their picnic lunches before the evening dance. Local merchants provided prizes, the names of whom took up several inches of print in the newspaper.

The June 30, 1937 *Anoka Union* reported similar festivities and numbers,

while photos detail several components of the mile-long parade, which began at FCC, and was led by the Anoka Municipal Band on a float. After a noon picnic, the employees enjoyed a trapshooting exhibition and “the best shots of the northwest including shooters Mentz, Saunders, Junior Dick, H.C. Russell, and George Jewett. The afternoon continued with a selection of races—pillow, sack, and relay—as well as pie eating and shoe scrambles. The adults enjoyed boxing and wrestling matches—Cully Youngquist won a “furious round battle” and Harold Miller and Ray Brock ended theirs in a draw.

By the time the newspaper reported on the 16th annual picnic, coverage had shrunk to a four-paragraph mention. The event, held at Oak Ridge resort, Crooked Lake, touted “one of the largest crowds in the history of these affairs.” Charles Nash and Blanche Groth of the Social Club arranged the parade, refreshments, trap shooting, bingo, merry-go-round, and other games before five hours of dancing began.

Having seen success in their endeavor of a picnic, the organizers of fun at FCC turned their sights on Anoka’s 16th annual Halloween parade in 1938. According to the newspaper account, it was a “wonderful float for the queen”. Unfortunately, the float described in the narrative also depicted “an Indian warming himself at a campfire, as Daniel Boone peers out from a cabin, rifle in hand.” Additionally, the Federal Cartridge Social Club had a float and “several hundred employees in costume made a fine showing.” FCC appeared in the second division with the high school band and class

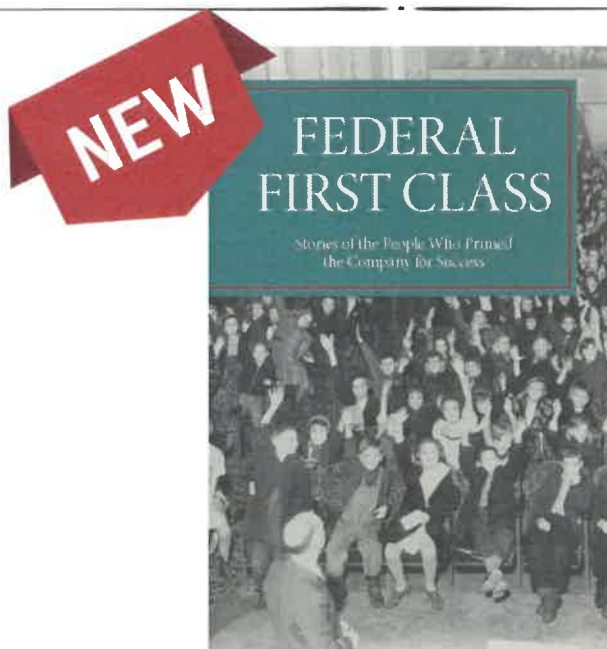


FCC Employee Social Club parade float, circa 1940s
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representation, the whole event was arranged at the talents of Chairman M.A. Faber.

FCC would continue to decorate an entry into the Halloween parades each year, as a selection of photos can attest. A 1947 letter also exists from the Anoka Halloween committee requesting a donation from the company—Horn and Ehlen replied with \$25, an estimated \$300 today.

To witness the 100th anniversary of a global company such as Federal Cartridge Company can only happen once. Much like other milestones of 25, 50, and 75 years, this centennial offers the opportunity to pause and reflect on the corporate legacy created by its founding employees—and now maintained by its existing structure. How will FCC continue? How has the corporate culture changed? What will those records have left behind look like to another researcher? Where will your story live? As repository for the FCC archive and its local story, the Anoka County Historical Society, an independent 501c3 nonprofit, invites the submission of photos, recollections, and other documentation to add personal color and texture in preparation for the 125th anniversary. *Remember, the present is the past of the future.*



Read more about the stories of the people and community of the Federal Cartridge Corporation in this exhibit companion. Produced in cooperation with FCC, it's a perfect compliment to the 100th Anniversary book. Both available at the Anoka County Historical Society.

Federal First Class—\$9.99
100th Anniversary Book—\$59.99

GRAND EXHIBIT OPENING & 2ND ANNUAL YARD SALE



Join us **July 9th** (during Anoka's Riverfest) for the grand opening of the 100th Federal Anniversary Exhibit. This exhibit marks the culmination of three years of work organizing and cataloging Federal's business archive. It showcases the people who have worked there over the years, the special community they built, and the job of producing ammunition.



We're here to witness the historical milestone of a company and the city, both joined together in a way of the past and the possibilities of the future.



While you're at the museum, browse the 2nd Annual Yard Sale on our front sidewalk. Find a treasure (no worries they aren't part of the collection) and help support local history. Perhaps a vintage hat, an

antique camera, or a 1950s edition of Federal's *Monark* magazine will be the perfect gift.

The photos on this page show a portion of the exhibit building process during the last few months. Top to bottom: Rebecca places letters written by Charles Horn on a reproduction desk. Sara contemplates if the text is large enough for the space. Erin celebrates setting up technology so we can show digitized Federal film in the exhibit hall. Don hangs donated lights from the Federal Clubhouse over the backdrop.





ANNUAL MEETING FUN

It was great to see so many of you at the museum for the Annual meeting on May 22! Thank you for taking the time to pop over and explore what we've been working on.

Since life is busy and you're often double booked, we recorded the meeting and fun tour of the history center (led by our new president, Rich Oxley). Scroll down on our website landing page to find the video, which contains a sneak peek at the Federal Cartridge centennial exhibit and a short business meeting.

At the meeting, new board member Wes Volkenant (District 2, 120 votes) accepted his position and incumbents Al Pearson (District 1, 129 votes) Steve Florman (At Large, 127 votes), Scott Nolan (At Large, 120 votes), and Allison Schmitt (At Large, 124 votes) retained theirs.

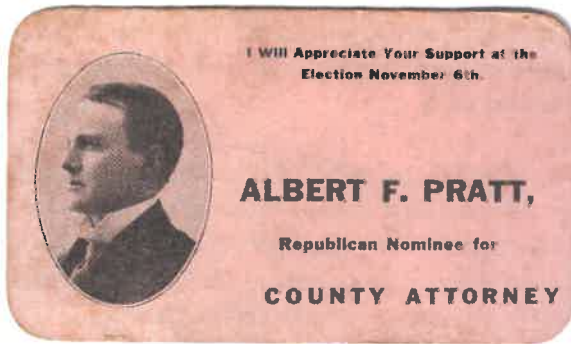
MEET KASSANDRA—INTERIM COLLECTIONS MANAGER



As we said goodbye to Erin to a new opportunity this past month, we welcomed back Cassandra Mackenthun to the museum. We first met Cassandra through her work with the Federal collection last summer. Her knowledge of the FCC collection, and her willingness to jump right in to whatever comes her way is invaluable. Having her help means that the momentum Erin created in the position will not be lost.

And she fits in so well! In her first month she has found the helmet light and gone spelunking for art [above], created a family archive program for the Anoka County Library, managed an intern for the Arfstrom Collection, and learned how to work on multiple donations at once.

The most surprising things shes learned is how many different people she's met with are willing to donate pieces of their family history to the collection and are excited about sharing their part of local history.



Albert Fuller Pratt, 1972-1928

The Albert F. Pratt Collection is an assortment of boxes containing decades of historical legal documents from hundreds of different civil and criminal cases throughout the history of Anoka County as well as neighboring counties. These cases are able to give us a glimpse into the legal issues that our community faced during Pratt's time as an

attorney and how they were handled throughout the legal system. One such case was four civil lawsuits handled by Pratt at the very beginning of the twentieth century in what he nicknamed the "sheep cases".

The sheep cases involved four lawsuits in which two passengers of a buggy, Bridget Manley, and Nora [buggy driver] Haley, sued Henry Johnson and Frank Dunning for personal injury. While there were only two passengers, Bridget and Nora's husbands Patrick and Thomas brought their own suits. The quartet claimed that Bridget Manley and Nora Haley were riding in a single-horse buggy down Marshall Avenue between 22nd and 23rd Avenues North-East in Minneapolis when they came upon a flock of sheep. They alleged that Johnson and Dunning neglectfully allowed the sheep to run free without an adequate amount of workers to herd the sheep. They also allegedly allowed them to take up the entire width of the street and continue down the street for several blocks, with numbers ranging from several hundred to several thousand sheep. When Nora and Bridget came upon the flock, they asserted the flock started running into and under the buggy as well as between the horse's legs. The horse then became frightened and eventually the horse threw them both from the buggy and onto the ground.

Searching the census records, both the Manley's and Haley's earned money through manual labor. Thomas Haley Sr. was living as a laborer in Columbia Heights two years after this incident and was in his mid-50s at the time of the accident. In the 1900 census, Patrick Manley was 72 years old, lived in the city of Anoka and worked as a farmer. His wife Bridget, 65 years old, and Patrick were both from Ireland and had

17 That at said time and place these defendants jointly and sev-
 18 erally, wrongfully, unlawfully, and negligently permitted and caused
 19 to run at large on said street a flock of several thousand sheep,
 20 unattended by a sufficient number of persons to prevent them from
 21 doing damage to this plaintiff and to individual property of other
 22 people within the limits of said city; said flock of sheep filling
 23 the whole of said street from side to side ^{said} _{places} and for sever-
 24 al blocks in length upon said street; and said flock of sheep; then



Not the sheep in question. "Scene seen on the farm" Giddings Family Farm, located in Coon Rapids.

been married 47 years. Their wives would have helped in managing the homes. Injuries sustained at their age would affect that work even more, in a household that probably couldn't afford any extra medical expense.

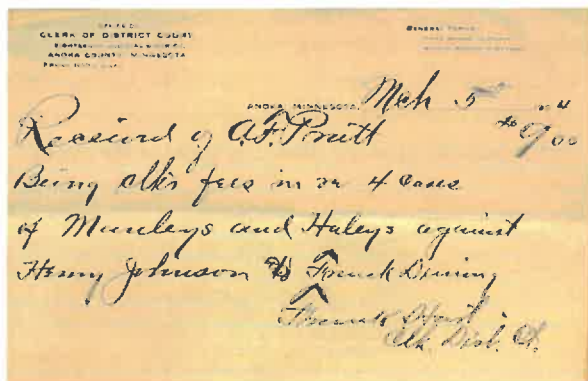
Bridget claimed that she suffered from an injured back, a broken arm, a ruptured abdomen, and broken ribs, as well as different bruises throughout her body. According to Nora and her husband Thomas Haley, Nora suffered

from even worse injuries. They account that she also injured her back along with a broken arm, injured nose and shoulder, and she even lost two teeth due to the impact. Both women allegedly suffered from severe pain and would have a shortened life due to their injuries.

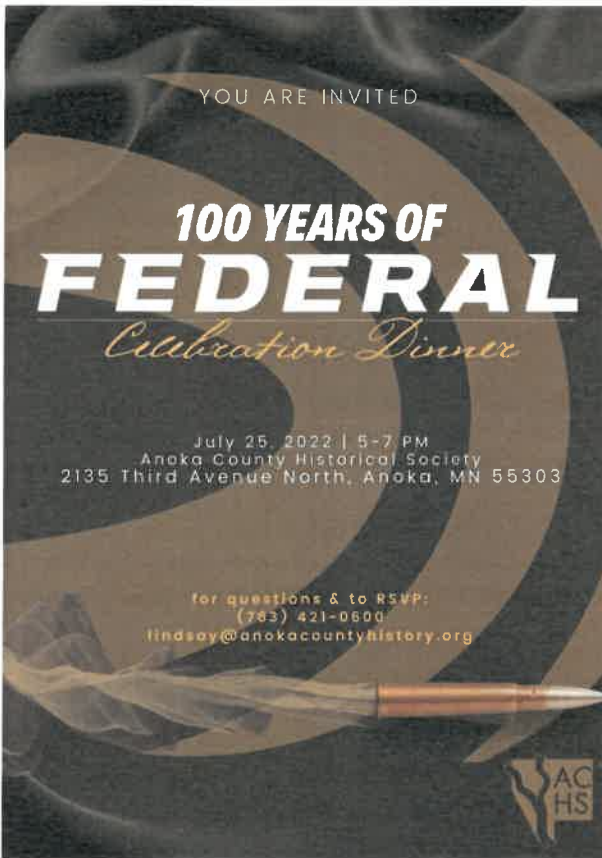
Altogether, the four lawsuits were seeking a collective \$18,000 from Dunning and Johnson, both of whom Albert F. Pratt represented and why we have information on this case. It is harder to find Dunning and Johnson in the census records as there are a couple men that could be Dunning and many more with the name "Henry Johnson." From this case, it's known they are laborers themselves, caring for a large flock.

As a response to the suit against them, Dunning and Johnson alleged that the Haley's buggy was old and dangerous and their horse was already known to be skittish. They add that Nora Haley was driving that night in a reckless and dangerous manner which meant any injury was due to the negligence of Nora Haley and not their sheep. Despite the accident's location in Hennepin County, before the start of the trial, the venue of the case was changed from Minneapolis to Anoka County due to the residence of the participants in the trial.

Unfortunately, as of yet there are no documents past this point and we are unaware of the outcome of this case. Although there may not be a conclusion, it definitely gives a glimpse into a different time when sheep were able to roam the streets of Minneapolis.



Receipt of payment from Frank Hart, Clerk at the Anoka County Court



Anoka County Historical Society is Proud to Partner with Federal Cartridge Company to Celebrate its Centennial Anniversary. As a way to officially pop the champagne and celebrate 100 years of Federal, ACHS will host a dinner in honor of our new exhibit. Featuring documents, photographs, blueprints, videos, equipment, and more, the exhibit will give patrons a small taste of the vast collection of items donated by the company to be preserved with the museum. Purchase a ticket to the dinner or sponsor the event.

BE PART OF THE CELEBRATION

	<p>POINTER LEVEL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Social media recognition (Facebook & Instagram) ■ Recognition & logo on dinner program ■ 2 dinner tickets 	<p>\$500</p>
	<p>GOLD MEDAL LEVEL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Social media recognition ■ Recognition & logo on storage and dinner program ■ Special recognition in our next member newsletter ■ 4 bonus tickets 	<p>\$1,000</p>



CATCH-22 Volunteer Edition

The summer is flying by already and I keep thinking about the Catch 22 of the volunteer world. We're busy and we have no time —volunteers can help! — but we're busy and we have no time. Taking the time to slow down from the deadlines and immediate projects to ask for help is difficult sometimes.

The plan was to write this column first thing this morning at 9 a.m., and it is now 2p.m. Each thing was important—questions from an intern, planning a project for a volunteer this afternoon, consulting with the printer and making sure they have the right file, plus more. But it all means I couldn't take time to say "we need help!" Specifically we need help at our big events this summer: the Anoka County Fair and Nowthen Threshing Show. At each we hang out in our building (either the Farmhouse or General Store) and connect with people over the old stuff. The goal is to have fun and let them know that ACHS is a cool place they should visit.

If you are available for a shift we would love to have you. Make it a fun day with a friend, or a grandchild. Tickets, training, and fun provided!

Sara Given
Volunteer Coordinator
Sara@AnokaCountyHistory.org

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS All lists are current to June 23, 2022

General Donations

American Legion
Edward B. Cutter
Post 102
Ryan Barland
Dick & Helen Bennett
Richard Bergling
Janice Bergstrom
Tadhg B. Mac an Bhaird
Mary & Mike Clark
Eva Mae Cleator
Connexus Energy
Sandra Connor
Gail Dahl
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Rich & Sherri Oxley
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Assoc.
Abby Sherman
Dawn Sieber
Arlene Tesch
Vietnam Veterans of
America Chapter 470
Mildred Wolf

New Members

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ACHS Sustaining Members

Scott & Michelle
Hardesty
Lotus & Richard
Hubbard
Veronica Johnson
T.J. Malaskee

Northeast Bank
Allison & Brian Schmitt
Ned Storla
Troy & Karen Brown
Ginny Bites LLC
Bradley J. LeTourneau-
Blackbird
Scott Nolan
Peterson Shoes
Lynne & Terry Rickert
Jean Seaborg

ACHS Business Members

Anoka Knights of
Columbus Council
2018
Fifth Avenue Dental
Forward Real Estate
Consulting LLC
Nowthen Historical
Power Association
Nate Otto
Pierce Refrigeration
Teamsters Local 638



HISTORY 21 THE PODCAST!

The first and third Friday of each month. Subscribe and never miss an episode.

Don't miss the latest episodes of the ACHS Podcast which tells the story of the oddest artifact in our collection: a watch fob made from a piece of human skull.



Episode 2.12—On her family's Ramsey farm in 1890, 10 year old Phoebe [Daisy] Guderian was kicked in the head by their horse and survived. In this episode, follow along with the story as told from newspaper reports, Daisy's own daughter, letters from the doctor who came from the rescue and his descendant. Special guest Peter Jablonski.

MONTHLY

History Center Hours—New SPRING/SUMMER HOURS

Tuesday 1-7 p.m., Wednesday-Friday 10a.m.—4 p.m.

Closed Saturday, Sunday, Monday.

Call us for a research reservation or to schedule shenanigans!

ACHS Board Meetings

Second Thursday of each month. 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

Open to membership and the public. Find the link to attend digitally at AnokaCountyHistory.org on the calendar.

Anoka Riverfest and Exhibit Opening

To My Good Friends: Celebrating 100 Years of Federal Cartridge Company

When: July 9, 10-4 p.m.

Where: History Center, Anoka

100 Years of Federal Celebration Dinner

When: July 25, 5-7 p.m.

Where: History Center, Anoka

Contact 763-421-0600 or Lindsay @AnokaCountyHistory.org for more information

Anoka County Fair—Old Farmhouse

When: July 26-31

Where: Anoka County Fair Grounds. Tickets available to volunteers or at AnokaCountyFair.org

Nowthen Threshing Show—General Store

When: Aug. 19-21

Where: Nowthen Threshing Show grounds

Tickets available to volunteers or at NowthenThreshing.com

**Keep up with the
Fun at ACHS!**



Anoka County
Historical Society



AnokaCoHistory

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

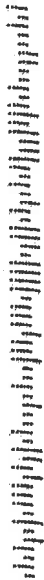


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