



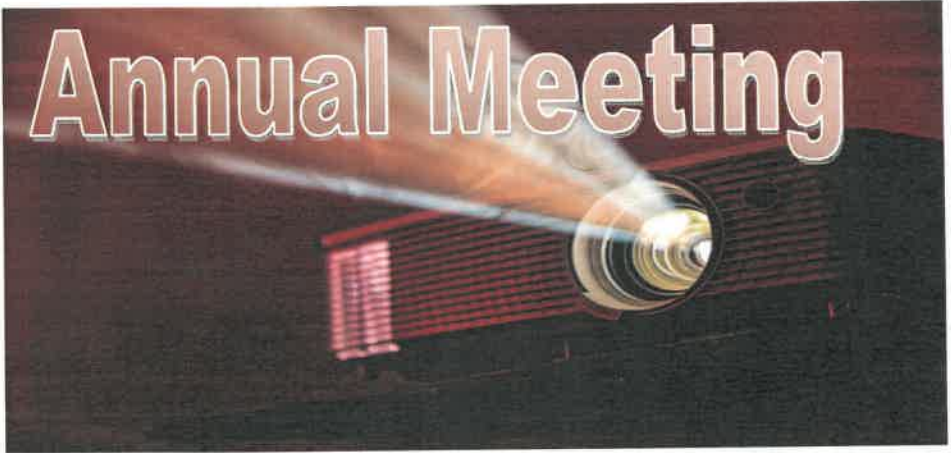
Anoka County
Historical Society

H I S T O R Y 21



Volume 51 No.2 March-April 2021
AnokaCountyHistory.org

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.



*In hopes we can meet in-person and outside for the Annual Meeting, the gathering has been scheduled for **MAY 18 AT 7 P.M.** If COVID or the weather make that impossible, we will have the meeting via Zoom (this will include a call-in option for those without internet or web cameras). Members will receive an email with more details within two weeks of the event, so mark your calendars now!*

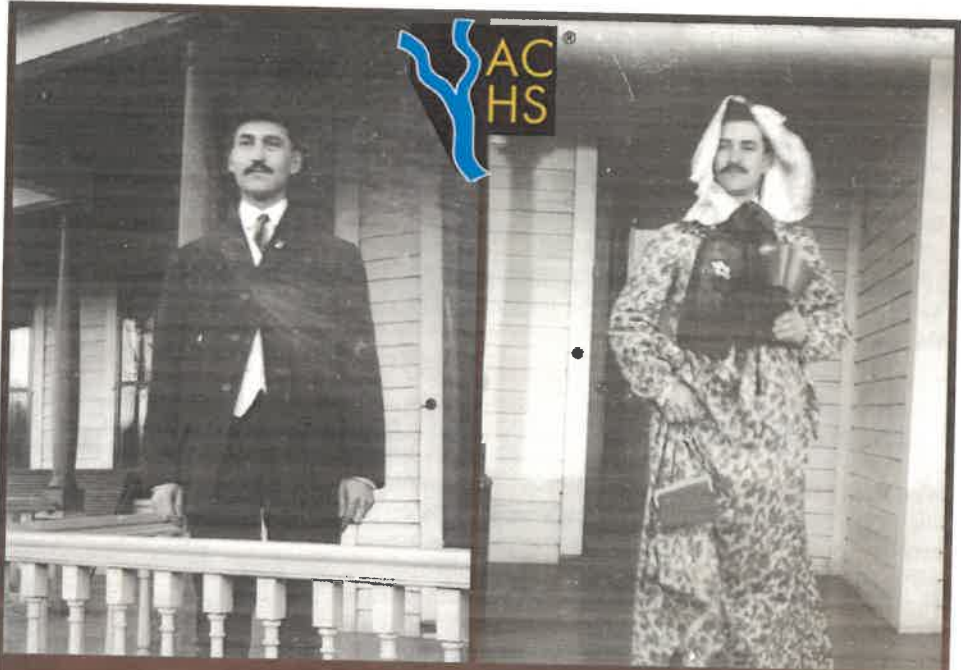
After a short business meeting to install new Board members and approve the 2020 financial statements, attendees will enjoy special entertainment created just for you! ACHS broke new ground in the past year with programming of all sorts, so expect some of those characters to return for a special Q&A session. What did it feel like to film a true crime drama? How did the staff adapt the Civil War program for a digital classroom presentation? Bring your questions for the panel.

Front Cover: Vivian Daly on the Daly Farm in Andover, 1957.

Object ID: AG100.Daly27

Annual Report Cover: Unidentified gentleman from the Downs family glass negative collection captured in two different poses. Circa 1900

Object ID: 2005.1361.048 & 2005.1361.049



MUSEUM
CLOSED

VS

OPEN
ONLINE

2020

ANNUAL REPORT

THE YEAR OF COVID

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER



I'm grateful to say yet again how 2020 became a year of opportunity for ACHS due in a large part to the strategic plan set forth by the Board of Directors in 2018. The staff and BOD has already implemented a significant portion of the large-scale goals, including focusing all the operations through a digital lens. As a result, when we closed the doors mid-March, all of our financial information, our memberships, the collections, and our project management systems existed online. Once we perfected Zoom, we were off to the races.

Credit for the rest of 2020 goes to our members and donors, without whom we wouldn't have anything to manage! It is entirely because of your generosity and belief in ACHS since 1934 that the museum stands, full of interesting things, poised for more of the same—as well as some new.

It's my utmost pleasure to begin my sixth year as your Director. Thank you for the journey thus far!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Ebnet-Desens'.

Rebecca Ebnet-Desens
ACHS Executive Director

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The Past Year – 2020 was a year like no other in our collective memory. COVID-19 brought a whole new set of vocabulary words—Social Distancing, Shelter-in-Place, Quarantine, Self-Isolation, Community Spread, Outbreak, Pandemic—the list goes on. These words and the actions associated with them are intended to protect us from disease transmission they also have created separation and virtual and real boundaries.



There were choices early on about how the Anoka County Historical Society and the History Center would proceed. The decisions we made to continue to be available and engaged with the communities we serve meant we switched from bricks and mortar and “in-person” to a digital online environment. A virtual environment that continued to connect with our members and others within Anoka County. Not only did we survive—we thrived. We continue to connect via social media and our fabulous website. We participated in grant programs that allowed us to manage the revenue losses due to Covid-19's impact on our fund raising and supported purchasing of equipment that ensures our digital presence.

I am humbled by the creativity, resilience, and persistence of the staff, volunteers, and ACHS Members who supported us throughout a challenging year. We articulated a new vision and mission statement to ensure we focus on all Anoka County communities and for 2021 extend an invitation that all are welcome to share their stories.

We are pleased to present this annual report that reviews our continued success.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lotus Hubbard'.

Lotus Hubbard, ACHS President

THE 2020 ACHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Al Pearson, *District #1 Representative*

Kim Hogdal, *District #2 Representative*

Orville Lindquist, *District #3 Representative (Treasurer)*

Lotus Hubbard, *District #4 Representative (President)*

Richard Oxley, *District #5 Representative (Vice-President)*

Open, *District #6 Representative*

Bart Ward, *District #7 Representative*

Steve Florman *At-Large A*

Dennis Berg, *At-Large B*

Daryl Lawrence, *At-Large C*

Johannes Allert, *At-Large D*

Jim Rootes, *At-Large E*

Paul Pierce III, *At-Large F*

Allison Schmitt, *At-Large G (Secretary)*

Mary Nolan, *At-Large H*

Jeff Reinert, *Anoka County Commissioner Liaison*

ACHS STAFF

Rebecca Ebnert-Desens, *Executive Director*

Audra Hilse, *Archivist & Collections Manager*

Erin McBrien, *Archivist & Collections Manager*

Sara Given, *Volunteer Coordinator*

Carol Dordan, *Facilities Manager*

Don Johnson, *Office Staff*

Karen Johnson, *Office Staff*

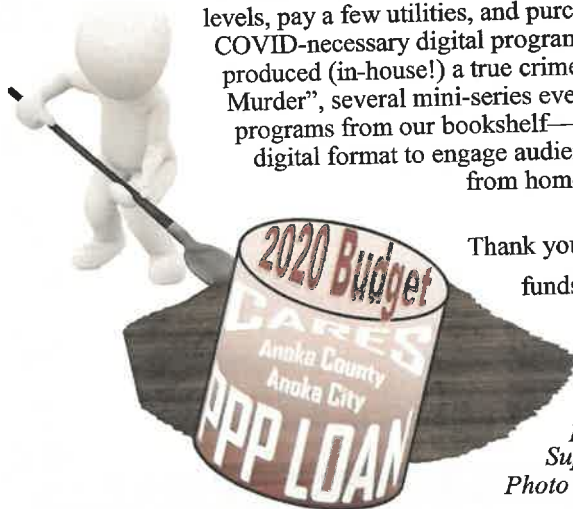
Andover, Anoka, Bethel, Blaine, Centerville, Circle Pines, Columbia Heights, Columbus,

Coon Rapids, East Bethel, Fridley, Ham Lake, Hilltop, Lexington, Lino Lakes, Linwood, Nowthen, Oak Grove, Ramsey, St. Francis, Spring Lake Park



Our 2020 story would look significantly different without the assistance we received from Federal, State, and local governmental sources. In fact, since we had our entire fundraising/programming season cancelled, we had a **\$55,000 HOLE IN OUR BUDGET**. Gratefully, the **PPP LOAN SUPPLIED \$30,000, ANOKA COUNTY CARES FUNDS GRANTED \$10,000, AND THE CITY OF ANOKA CARES FUNDS ALSO GRANTED \$10,000**. Although the PPP dollars remain a liability for us as we await a decision on our forgiveness application, the opportunity as a small nonprofit to apply for these three sources of funds can't be understated.

The funds from these three sources allowed ACHS to maintain staffing levels, pay a few utilities, and purchase recording equipment to create COVID-necessary digital programming. As a result, we have produced (in-house!) a true crime drama called “An Un-Wise Murder”, several mini-series events on social media, and three programs from our bookshelf—fully recreated in an engaging digital format to engage audiences now studying and working from home.



Thank you isn't enough for receipt of these funds, but it's certainly sincere.

Above: Empty shelves in the paper goods aisle, Wal-Mart Supercenter, Blaine March, 2020. Photo by Vickie Wendel.

in the painters masks. It might not stop everything coming in and going tops.” Anonymous (May 26, 2020)

March



March 18
Museum Closed. Start working from home with one staff member checking the physical museum.
Left: April Zoom meeting from our home offices

Prepping museum for people by assembling safety shields and rearranging furniture.

July



July 7
Museum open limited hours.
Above: Don at the front desk behind a screen he built



November

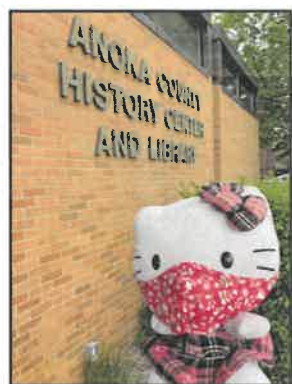
Staff trained to disinfect surfaces and bathrooms each hour.

November 1 – 7
Staff received a mandatory vacation after stressful year.

November 23
Closed again to all in-person visits per state regulations. Open to stuffed animals.

January

January 11
Open for appointment only.



“I never dreamed that I would experience a pandemic. It's very different than The Walking Dead show. I know life will never be the same after this.” Fa

PRE-COVID VICTORY!



CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL PROJECT MANAGER (CPPM)

Juuuuust before COVID slammed the door shut, Rebecca, Sara, and Audra spent six full days at the Workforce Center in Blaine to officially learn how to manage projects and earn the Certified Professional Project Manager (CPPM) designation from the University of St. Thomas College of Business. The training, paid for by a grant from Anoka County, has allowed staff to better understand the mechanisms of project management by employing (gasp) math.

Value: \$8,000

*\$2,695 Per Participant

Spoiler Alert: all three received 100% on the certification test!

TRANSITION TO WORK FROM HOME

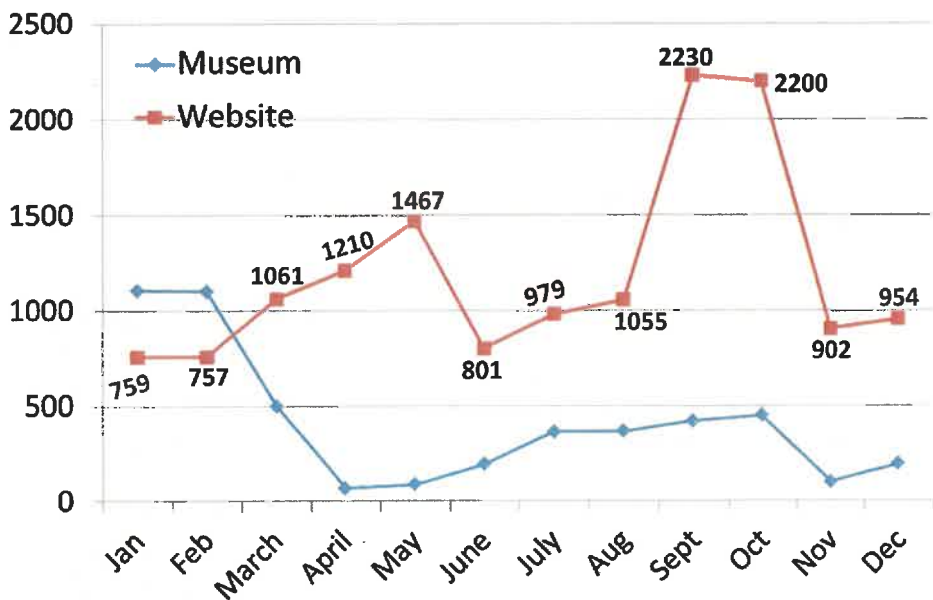
In retrospect, we now refer fondly to our “inadvertent planning” of moving ACHS operations online, making them remotely accessible. In March, we just said, “dang, that worked out well!” We had our flashy new website and online donations system set up, we had Trello to manage those projects in one place, and all the information we needed to access our collection for research requests— providing the internet didn’t let us down. We invested in a subscription to Survey Monkey and set about gathering #HistoryHappensNow, to Zoom so we could have meetings longer than 40 minutes, and StreamYard so we could host programming and the online events with “An Un-Wise Murder”. All we needed now was our comfy pants and pets. Even Daiki helped (below)!

Below: Audra’s home office with her pet snake Daiki.



WEBSITE

More now than ever, our first contact with people is often on our website, AnokaCountyHistory.org. It is our tool for communication, the exhibit hall, the collection, and one way people find the local history they are searching for. Whether they currently live in Anoka County, or are living on the other side of the country, the information is there for them no matter the time of day.



*Museum numbers include staff members entering the building

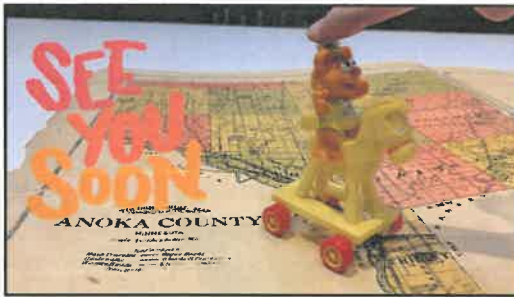
SOCIAL MEDIA

We may be a staff of introverts, but we have all the digital social skills we need! Delivering information in a way that felt more personal to our audiences on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram during the pandemic became even more critical. By using hashtags to group our programming series together, we took a #TourAnokaCounty, explored #MicrofilmMadness, and rose to the challenge of #MNMuseumAlphabet. Knowing our work provided a reprieve from the daily stress for the residents of Anoka County felt truly rewarding.



██████████ Thanks Anoka County Historical Society for the pictures and history, it means a lot to me and I'm sure everyone else in these times of uncertainty... be well friends...

[Like](#) [Reply](#) [Message](#) 1h Edited



#TourAnokaCounty

April 17—May 8

Each day of the tour featured history & photographs of the cities in the county as well as mini-videos produced with the help of ACHS friends, volunteers and staff.

#MicrofilmMadness

Finding hidden gems and curious records in the microfilm reel resources at ACHS. Including liquor license sagas, estray records, and discovering the North Pole—in Fridley.



end to this, and there is nothing I can do to make it stop. Usually t and do that.” Sandy Connor (April 17, 2020)

DIGITAL PROGRAMS

We have a library of programs researched and ready to go in our bookshelf. How to share these programs in a world that has moved away from in-person power point led programs? We turn them digital!

First, we tested out how our wedding program power point would work live on an interactive platform. It worked to a degree, but felt very static. So we decided to become our own video production studio and see how we could translate our programs into consumable videos to watch on-demand.

The test program—a history of the sewing pattern from Sara’s basement at the height of quarantine. We cobbled together a system to capture footage and began teaching ourselves how to use Adobe Rush (video editing for dummies) and Adobe Premiere (video editing for the serious minded.) With the program divided into 10 minute segments, it became easier to consume. A viewer could watch one segment at a time, or binge all six together.

With determination and hours of tutorials on YouTube or Lynda.com, we transferred our history research skills to learning how to edit video. The time spent learning here, gave us the confidence we needed to produce a full-length documentary as our fundraiser for the year. See page 11 for the story on that adventure.

Behind the Scenes

Makeshift teleprompter and camera setup



Finished Program

6 part, 57 minute long program available to watch on demand



CREATE MORE DIGITAL PROGRAMING

We have redecorated Sara’s cube into a mini-studio with backdrops, and invested in a teleprompter and audio equipment. This helped already create a 43 minute Civil War Program in January—and more throughout the year!



With the magic combination of time, stubbornness, and Google, you can teach yourself anything from editing a full length TV show together to starting a podcast. It has been a fun adventure expanding my brain.

Sara Given, Volunteer Coordinator

It will get better. Summer will come. We can still go boating and get out not, I will find another and learn something new. Anonymous (April 17, 2



HISTORY 21: THE PODCAST

Those of us who discovered the world of podcasts can't get enough of them. Those who haven't discovered this media yet...you're missing out! The format of a portable, audio program suits history geeks perfectly, as it's the **STORY** that truly matters to the preservation of our community. Creating a podcast for ACHS was one of those items on the to-do list that just never quite made it to the middle, let alone the top, of the page. But, with COVID dragging on into the fall, staff decided adding yet one more digitally accessible format made sense.

EPISODE LIST

1. Daryl Lawrence
2. Impact Services & Santa Stories
3. Arch Pease
4. Erin McBrien
5. Erin Freitag
6. Denise DeMars
7. Maddie Mcnamara

Currently available as blog posts on our website (please excuse the technical difficulties regarding the RSS feed) History 21: The Podcast debuted December 3 and drops the first and third Fridays of each month. Producing a podcast involves brainstorming episode elements and guests, making the recordings, editing the ramblings down to 20 minutes, stitching in the fun music and library notes, and rendering it so our website recognizes the files. From there, staff creates a Show Notes page containing images and additional information listeners could find helpful or interesting after they listen.

One last step: we can't forget to publish the social media teasers and clips, so everyone knows what's coming up on the calendar.

HISTORY 21: THE VAULT

One of the many challenges we discovered about digital programming is balancing the huge time investment up front in creating the show with the "pay-per-view" world of on-demand entertainment. Our solution? History 21: The Vault. This password-protected area of our website contains exclusive content, digital programs, and special promos just for subscribers. Much like your Amazon Prime, Netflix, or Patreon subscriptions, The Vault allows ACHS to monetize the products of our work yet make them accessible when YOU want them. Best of all? The funds raised through this initiative will support our operations and continue to make ACHS a high-quality museum for the community.



FIND ON THE VAULT:

- ⇒ Full, unedited podcast interviews
- ⇒ The UnWise Murder complete program
- ⇒ High School video yearbooks (coming)
- ⇒ & MORE!

VOLUNTEERING DURING COVID



One of the fun parts of volunteering for a historical society is helping care for the old stuff. With the museum closed, or limiting volunteers for the majority of the year many of the ways volunteers helped at the museum were put on pause.

But the help didn't stop. Projects shifted just like so many other things to work at home and took advantage of all the ways to connect digitally.

4,371*
Volunteer Hours

EQUIVALENT OF
PAID STAFF TIME
\$87,420

* Based on reported volunteer hours.



We're looking ahead to safely reviving the volunteer program in the museum in 2021. How can volunteers best support our mission and the collection with the wide-range of unique skills they bring with them?



The small handful of volunteers who were able to spend time in the museum each had their own sanitized work station, and sported masks of various designs.

FUNDRAISING DURING A PANDEMIC

Or, how to take a never-easy task and make it more difficult

We saw the writing on the wall fairly early that our Lager Fest would collapse, the fairs and festivals couldn't happen, and the Ghost Tours...well, an untimely demise for sure. Clearly, things had to go digital—but how could we engage an audience? What would make them feel like they would get value for their donation? How could we replicate the feeling of community present at these events?



Our discussions always came back to storytelling. Could we somehow weave a compelling narrative from our collection like we did in the live courtroom drama of Mary Fridley a few years ago? Could we take our basic knowledge of video editing and actually put together an hour-long production people would enjoy?

OF COURSE WE COULD.

Staff combed through the files of County Attorney Albert Pratt to find a likely story, that of the Wise family from Grow, murdered in 1900. We listed the people involved, the places

they named, then mapped the timeline of events. We searched the ACHS archive for images, newspaper clippings, and collection items to make the story visually interesting. We grouped the events into a story arc of five segments and started watching episodes of Dateline to get a feel for the genre. We wrote the script.

To record the necessary “B-roll”, or stock footage, of the deadly night, we borrowed the Ames-Florida-Stork House in Rockford. With Sara dressed up, we filmed boots walking across the floor, pens writing letters, cards being played, and tea cups shattering on the floor. We captured her running through tall grass, the lapping of lakes, expansive bean fields, and friendly cows. Filming continued with several volunteers acting out the script in “live interviews” in the QCTV studio or at the Nowthen Threshing Show grounds and recording testimonials about why history is important.

But how to convey our newly-edited masterpiece to the world without simply hitting play on a Zoom screen share? After much research and some experimentation, we settled on something called StreamYard. This program allowed the staff to present live online, interact with each other, receive comments from the viewers, and share the prerecorded show. The final event lasted an hour and a half with only minimal technical glitches and raised \$3,000 for museum operations.



TO DO THIS
ALL AGAIN!

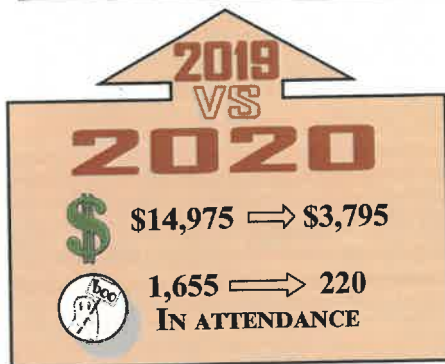
couldn't find formula. We stopped at every Target from here to Hudson, Wisconsin and
 . It's a crazy time to be alive. Anonymous. (April 1, 2020)

GHOSTS OF ANOKA TOURS

Covid-19 restrictions and safety concerns had us curtailing the majority of the 2020 in-person Ghost Tour plans, and figuring out a new system to make the Ghost Tours digitally accessible. The 2020 Ghost Tour plan included three Ghostly offerings:

1. The Original [OG] Tour —three volunteer tour guides expressed an interest in leading in person tours. With max capacity set at 12 and masks, participants could enjoy the tour distanced from each other.
2. Zoom Tour— meeting on Zoom, the guide presented the same Ghost Tour stories while sharing extra videos and images not available on the OG tour.
3. Digital Tour—Richard Oxley, ACHS board member and video production instructor at Hennepin Technical College, made digitizing the Ghost Tour part of his class for field videography. The students captured footage of guides giving the tour, as well as b-roll shots of the stops, and drone footage of the city of Anoka. They began creation of the digital tour mid-August and completed final edits in time to premiere October 1.

Tour Type	# Sold	\$\$
Digital Tour	52	\$728
Zoom Tour	5	\$70
Original Tour	153	\$2142
Wise Murder On Demand	10	\$200
Private Event	NA	\$655
Total	220	\$3,795



Highly recommended! I watched it last night. ...

Like Reply Message 19h



With the 100th Anniversary of Anoka Halloween we were able to still share the Halloween artifacts in the collection with exhibits at:

- Northtown Library
- Rum River Library
- ACHS Museum Gallery
- Online gallery at AnokaCountyHistory.org

“Experienced my first remote meeting of the Lino Lakes City Council via Zoom. Never thought of the pandemic. Will be interested how this will change our future and if on-site meetings will be back.”

KEEPING THE COLLECTION HAPPY

The Covid-19 pandemic made 2020 an unusual year in working with and organizing the ACHS collection while also working remotely for a portion of the year. Spaces in the museum shifted to reflect a year where exhibit building was less of a priority because of the limited visitor access to the building.



Don, ACHS staff, set up a new computer station in the exhibit hall to have a Covid-distanced work space and to power through photographing and digitizing items in the collection.



Audra spread out in other areas of the museum to give items the care they needed before being accessioned into the collection. These tasks included carefully vacuuming small dirt and debris from a pair of uniform trousers.



**OVERALL, I FEEL ____ ABOUT THE
COVID-19 PANDEMIC RIGHT NOW**



While we live history every day, creating a legacy story for future generations based on our experiences, witnessing a truly monumental circumstance usually comes once or twice per generation. 2020 undeniably marked itself as one for the books.

If you look at the top of each of these pages, you'll find quotes from people who responded to our surveys. Under the hashtag #HistoryHappensNow, we have promoted the idea that documenting your experience in these extraordinary times will help fuel conversations and memories in the future. Whether it's about COVID-19, the quarantine, online school, working from home, shortages in the stores, vaccines, Black Lives Matter, the violence in the Twin Cities, or the death of George Floyd, making notes as events play out creates a more true vision.

To read more from this gathering effort, please visit our website, click "what we do" then "exhibit hall" then "online only: history gather, COVID-19". You'll find quotes, blog posts, and a place to submit your own musings.

Access to technology was at the forefront of being able to continue the work at ACHS. A non-exhaustive list of the programs and equipment that made 2020 possible:

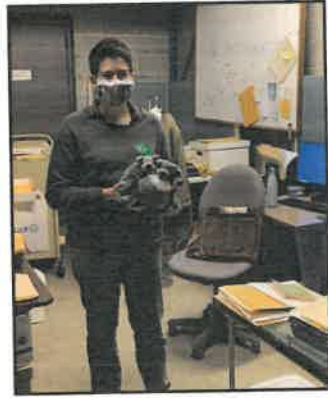
- ◆ Collective Access—ACHS online database
- ◆ Etapestry—ACHS online people management
- ◆ Zoom
- ◆ Adobe Premiere Pro
- ◆ Adobe Photoshop
- ◆ Adobe Audition
- ◆ Adobe Spark
- ◆ Adobe Rush
- ◆ StreamYard
- ◆ Trello
- ◆ One Drive
- ◆ Dropbox
- ◆ Squarespace
- ◆ Facebook/Twitter/Instagram
- ◆ Buffer.com
- ◆ Vimeo.com
- ◆ YouTube
- ◆ Eventbrite
- ◆ Audiogram
- ◆ Puzzle creator
- ◆ Video cameras
- ◆ Still cameras
- ◆ Microphones
- ◆ Cell phones
- ◆ *And more!*

HIRING NEW HUMAN

To live out our values of inclusion, we designed a blind hiring process that also made space for introverts and less verbal humans to shine.

Using Survey Monkey, qualified job candidates completed a written interview. Our committee then read and ranked the answers without knowing any more than the words on the page.

The results (happily) surprised us and we learned valuable lessons about our assumptions. For more on the process, please check out our blog section on the website.



New Archivist Erin McBrien:

What a supremely strange year. I still remember getting the email over Spring Break that in-person classes had been cancelled. Still, I graduated with my Masters, moved from New York to Minnesota, got married (four people attended, including the judge), and applied for more jobs than I can count. This has been one heck of a year, but I'm so excited to be a part of the ACHS team. Thank you!

Erin McBrien



In spite of its challenges, 2020 also felt like a year of discovery - was it possible to manage a museum collection from home? The answer was, "Not completely," but I could do more than I would have thought, and we made some good progress on the collections in spite of difficult circumstances.

Audra Hilse, Archivist Jan-Oct
(sporting Quarantine Hair)

Audra Hilse

nges all the time, but then get overwhelmed and try to tune out and
everything.” Anonymous

FEDERAL PROJECT

As a good friend, you can't overlook a milestone birthday—especially if that friend will turn 100! ACHS can't wait for 2022 to arrive and the celebration to commence for Federal Cartridge's centennial.

During 2020, staff from both ACHS and Federal sorted through boxes and boxes of saved artifacts, photographs, and documents. The duplicates were removed and the remaining items found a home in preservation folders and boxes. The collection then moved into our exhibit gallery where they await digitizing and data entry to Collective Access. ACHS also received a Historical and Cultural Heritage Grant to fund the collection of oral histories featuring legacy families—families who have worked at the Federal plant for two and three generations.



*Above: Audra starting the sorting process at an off-site location.
Below: Moving to ACHS and looking more organized.*



The work continues in 2021 as catalogs, photos, and 3D objects are digitized for publication in a special interest magazine, coffee table book, and our online exhibit. We will plan the physical exhibit, a celebration dinner, and maybe even another video project!

ANOKA COUNTY:

THANK YOU

It is with deep gratitude that ACHS acknowledges the role played by the County in continuing to fund a large portion of the History Center operations: **the equivalent of 43 cents per resident.**

Without this core support, ACHS couldn't maintain the professional standards of research, preservation, and heritage we're known for. These funds help us maintain outreach and educational opportunities, as well as operational tasks.

ANOKA COUNTY

LIBRARY

ACHS continues to be a part of the County Library system. Patrons can choose ACHS as a pick up location for library books, and for a significant number of people, the public computers here are the only access they have to the internet. Those that visit for these services become "regulars," friends, and part of our community.

VISITING THE MUSEUM



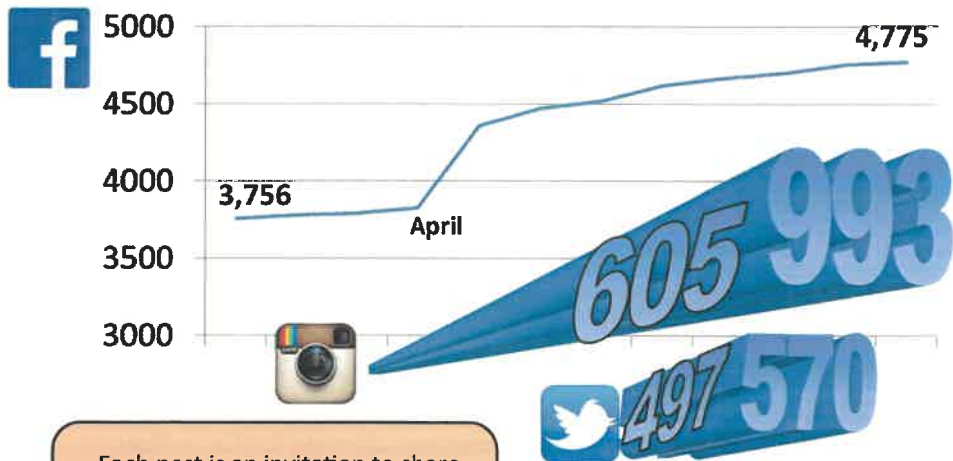
Visitation to the museum may have been curtailed, but people found alternative ways to connect with us and share their love of Anoka County History. We saw jumps in the number of people following us on social media and on the website which corresponded to the onset of Covid quarantine.



We've really enjoyed your series #TourAnokaCounty! Thank you for all of the people who have put time into it. My husband and I grew up in Fridley and never knew the history behind the Banfill-Locke home. I did recognize the old school house that in Fridley. As elementary students we speculated that there were definitely some ghosts within the building. Someone even mentioned seeing bones flying through the air. Ha. Today was Ramsey where we currently live. It was so interesting to hear about the school house and the cemetery. We've had a great time following along. Thank you!

d and my husband who has preexisting conditions and being joyful to of a difficult situation.” Kim Hogdal

GROWTH BY THE NUMBERS



Each post is an invitation to share memories and stories that would otherwise be lost.

Anoka County Historical Society
April 29, 2020

Who remembers Soderquists market
#TourAnokaCounty Ham Lake (3) Located at Crosstown Center on Highway 65 in the same family for 87 years from 1926 to 2013. This view captures the store in 2003 #AnokaCountyHistory #MnMusuems

446 220 Comments 257 Shares



They had the best rolls and potato salad. One was a staple for Christmas Eve, the other essential for any summer gathering.
Like · Reply · 42w · 3

I had so many found memories of shopping there as a kid. I'm glad I was given the opportunity to work here for over 10 years. I learned the value of hard work, connecting with customers and building friendships. I'm blessed to have had great mentors ... See More
Like · Reply · 42w · 11

Those corn dogs! Lol



Like · Reply · 42w · 4
8 Replies

Best Reuben sandwiches ever! Thursday lunch special I believe.
Like · Reply · 42w · 5



LEADING THROUGH ZOOM, TRELLO LEARNING CURVE

Our 15 Board members successfully tackled technology to hold their first-ever Zoom meeting in April. Since then, all monthly meetings, committee and task force gatherings have taken place online—sometimes still with shouts of glee when the

video pops up. Undeterred, the BOD also learned Trello, the project management software used by ACHS staff. Now a good portion of communication, planning, and document sharing occur in this format, reducing the number of lost emails considerably.

COMMITTEES

The nitty-gritty work of governance takes place in the Gather, Engage, Define Identity, and Management Committees. These groups wrestle with budgets, outreach, identifying voids in the collection, and what the ACHS brand stands for. In 2020, the Board decided to open the doors to volunteers willing to bring their skills to these conversations.

**Interested in joining a committee?
Drop us a line to hear more.**



MEMBER

WHAT MAKES A MEMBER?



A task force has wrestled with the question during 2020, trying to define “members” and “donors”. Are all donors members? Do members self-select and therefore earn voting rights at ACHS? Aren’t our donors who don’t declare themselves members just as invested in local history?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

FACING CHANGE

Board Members spent the second year of this national initiative sponsored by the American Association of Museums setting goals for year three and rewriting the mission statement of ACHS. In addition, the BOD adopted a Values Statement supporting our commitment to ensuring a representation of all stories in Anoka County live in the collection. During these bi-weekly meetings, members analyzed the culture of the board, where we connect with people, and how we make people feel welcome. They set goals including bringing new voices to the committees and prepping them to lead these groups. The intention of this decision is to not only include more people in the work of governance, but move projects and ideas along faster and increase our impact on communities within Anoka County.



Facing Change:

Advancing Museum Board
Diversity & Inclusion

Our mission is to gather, preserve and share the stories of all the people and communities that are part of Anoka County.

The Anoka County Historical Society is an inclusive organization. We are accountable to the community for presenting and celebrating the stories of Anoka County, as well as those which still need to be told. We invite people to join us on a journey to ignite curiosity about our past and understanding of our present.

2020 FINANCIAL GROWTH

Anoka County Historical Society

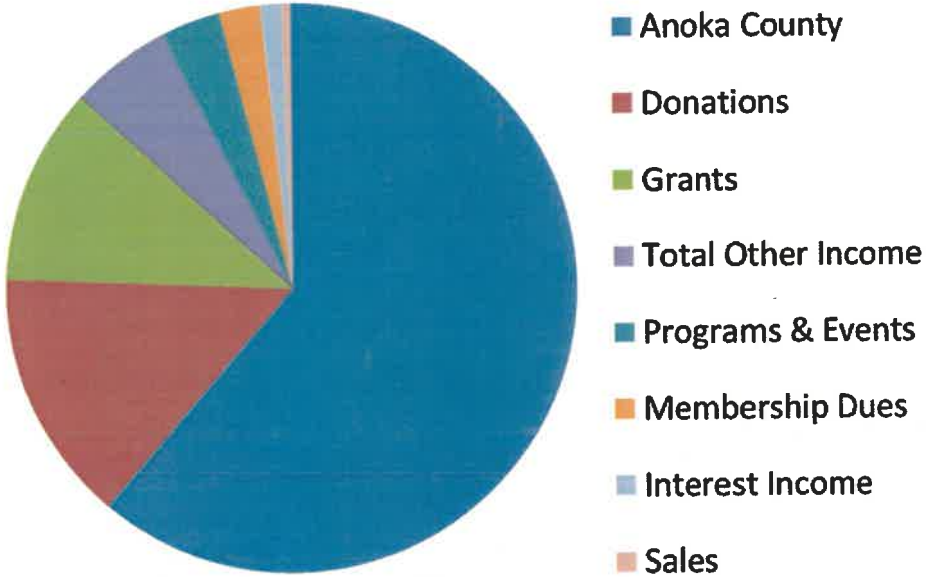
Budget vs. Actuals: budget FY 2020 - FY20 P&L

January - December 2020

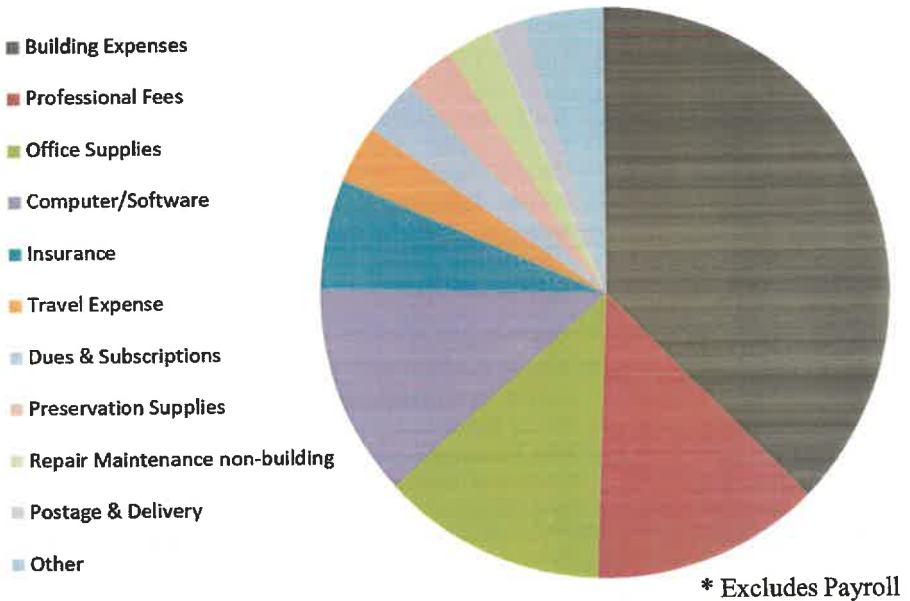
	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Revenue				
Inkind Revenue	88,085.04	80,000.00	8,085.04	110.11 %
Sales	82.42		82.42	
TOTAL SUPPORT				
Admissions		600.00	-600.00	
Anoka County	152,823.00	152,823.00	0.00	100.00 %
Donations	35,673.84	73,500.00	-37,826.36	48.54 %
Grants	27,788.00		27,788.00	
Interest Income	3,057.30	10,089.39	-7,032.09	30.30 %
Membership Dues	5,752.00	5,000.00	752.00	115.04 %
Other Income	14,340.45	1,011.57	13,328.88	1,417.64 %
Programs and Events	8,388.15	28,000.00	-20,641.85	28.82 %
Sales	1,148.09	4,508.74	-3,362.85	25.42 %
Total TOTAL SUPPORT	248,738.63	278,332.70	-27,594.07	90.01 %
Uncategorized Revenue	520.75		520.75	
Total Revenue	\$337,426.84	\$356,332.70	\$-18,905.86	94.69 %
Cost of Goods Sold	\$42.54	\$0.00	\$42.54	0.00%
GROSS PROFIT	\$337,384.30	\$356,332.70	\$-18,948.40	94.88 %
Expenditures				
Advertising	171.99	390.00	-218.01	44.10 %
Auto Expense	154.00	34.00	120.00	452.94 %
Bank Service Charges	303.46	538.35	-232.89	56.58 %
Building Expenses	32,065.70	31,203.99	861.71	102.83 %
Computer/Software Expense	10,263.51	7,000.00	3,263.51	146.62 %
Depreciation Expense	30,134.16		30,134.16	
Dues and Subscriptions	2,778.70	2,000.00	778.70	138.94 %
Food		900.00	-900.00	
Furniture & Other Equipment	134.78	500.00	-365.22	26.96 %
Gifts	46.33	300.00	-253.67	15.44 %
Human Resources Expense	198.00	1,200.00	-1,002.00	16.50 %
Inkind Rent	80,000.04	80,000.00	0.04	100.00 %
Inkind Services	8,085.00		8,085.00	
Insurance	5,339.29	4,685.00	654.29	113.97 %
Museum Exhibit Expense	997.85	10,000.00	-9,002.15	9.98 %
Networking	25.00	300.00	-275.00	8.33 %
Office Supplies	10,672.42	10,450.00	422.42	104.04 %
PAYROLL	158,385.08	174,948.34	-16,551.26	90.54 %
Postage and Delivery	1,438.96	2,700.00	-1,261.04	53.28 %
Preservation Supplies	2,404.32	3,600.00	-1,195.68	66.79 %
Printing and Reproduction	424.94	2,000.00	-1,575.06	21.25 %
Professional Fees	11,104.85	10,500.00	604.85	105.76 %
Program Expense	1,325.04	7,500.00	-6,174.86	17.67 %
Purchases	91.74	800.00	-708.26	11.47 %
QuickBooks Payments Fees	23.89	100.00	-76.11	23.89 %
Reconciliation Discrepancies	-60.00		-60.00	
refund	-6.00		-6.00	
Repair/Maintenance-Non-Building	2,323.00	400.00	1,923.00	580.75 %
Travel Expense	2,801.48	3,694.66	-893.18	75.83 %
Uncategorized Expenditure	38.99		38.99	
Total Expenditures	\$361,896.62	\$355,740.34	\$6,156.28	101.73 %
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$-24,512.32	\$592.36	\$-25,104.68	-4,138.08 %
Investment Revenue	19,199.56		19,199.56	
Total Other Revenue	\$19,199.56	\$0.00	\$19,199.56	0.00%
NET OTHER REVENUE	\$19,199.56	\$0.00	\$19,199.56	0.00%
NET REVENUE	\$-5,312.76	\$592.36	\$-5,905.12	-896.88 %

The "Grants" line item refers to the two CARES grants received from the City of Anoka and Anoka County, as well as Legacy dollars for an oral history project. "Other income" includes \$10,000 received from Federal Cartridge to off-set costs associated with the centennial project. We were able to stay close to budget by cutting expenses in exhibits, programs, and printing. Until it's forgiven, the PPP loan remains a liability.

REVENUE



EXPENDITURES



Annual Appeal

Ralph Ballinger
 Harry & Jeanette Blair
 Julie Braastad
 Carol Buelow
 Ann & Brent Campbell
 Elise Chan g
 Eva Mae Cleator
 Frank & Vivian Daly
 Duane & Joan Dingmann
 Robert & Marilyn
 Douglass
 Mike Dunlap
 Bob & Ellyn Erickson
 Bruce & Karen
 Gengnagel
 Deirdre Hagstrom
 Kim Hogdal
 Lara Homa
 Florence Jacob
 Jim Kordiak
 Luanne Koskinen
 Jim Kugler
 Lynne Larson
 George & Barbara Meyer
 Sue Mickelson
 David & Jeanne Minier
 Cynthia Nelson
 Warren & Lilly Olson
 Mike Oslund
 Dale Peterson
 Dianne Rossbach
 Judith Rufsvold
 Laura Saastamoinen
 Carol Schaubach
 Joyce Schmidt
 Karen Sivanich
 Debra Stenerson
 Ashley Sullivan
 Margaret Ubl
 Barbara Ulvin
 Wesley & Cheryl
 Volkenant
 Sharon Welsh
 Marvin & Sally West
 Ernest Woizeschke
 Peter Wojciechowski

James Wright
 Chuck Zielin

General Donations

Janice Anderson
 Patricia Belousek
 Dennis & Darlene Berg
 Sherry Boyce
 Brookings County
 Historical Society—
 Museum
 Dan Erhart
 Mary Erickson
 Gary & Shelby Erickson
 Sarah Florman
 Joe & Carlene Garrick
 Diann Hendrickson
 Lotus & Richard
 Hubbard
 Jerome & Marilyn
 Manley
 Diane Marsh
 Valerie McNamara
 Gary & Carol Melby
 Robert & Marveen
 Minish
 Carol Moen
 Mary & Scott Nolan
 Phil & Laurie Olmon
 Gary & Eileen Rathbun
 Jeff Reinert
 Joe & Barb Ridge
 Robert Rither
 Chad Roberts
 Allison Schmitt
 Jean Seaborg
 Jill & Steve Smith
 Elizabeth Svercl

New Members
 Angela Green
 Rob & Laurie Hanson
 Susan Ketel
 Phil Knutson
 Raymond Turnquist
 Toni Wenzell

Artifact Donors

Dennis Berg
 Elizabeth Bune
 Shirley Christenson
 City of Columbia Heights
 City of Lexington
 Michael Clark
 Denise DeMars
 Chris & Joan Gorham
 Diann Hendrickson
 Lake George
 Conservation Club
 Arlow Lambert
 Orville Lindquist
 Beverly Mercil
 Allerton Paulson
 Dianne Pederson
 Juanita Reed-Boniface
 Barbara Thurston

ACHS Sustaining Members

Scott & Michelle
 Hardesty
 Lotus & Richard
 Hubbard
 Courtney Jones
 Northeast Bank
 Gina Overacker
 Robert Rither
 Allison & Brian Schmitt
 Rita Warpeha
 Melanie Weeks

ACHS Business Members

Anoka Knights of
 Columbus Council
 2018
 Fifth Avenue Dental
 Hammerheart Brewing
 Hawaii Nail Spa
 Nowthen Historical
 Power Association
 Peterson Shoes
 Pierce Refrigeration
 Rum River Restoration

History Center Hours.

Open hours subject to change during this uncertain time. Please double check the most current open schedule on our website AnokaCountyHistory.org

ACHS Board Meetings

Second Thursday of each month. 6 p.m. via Zoom
Open to membership and the public. Find link to attend digitally at AnokaCountyHistory.org on the calendar.

ELECTION INFO

Every year about this time, the dreams of the Anoka County Historical Society Board of Directors turn to the closing of one year and the opening of another. An indication of this is planning for the annual meeting in May when new members of the board are installed.

Serving on a nonprofit board of directors carries with it the heady responsibility of setting the strategic course for the organization, maintaining financial stewardship and committing volunteer time to ensure goals are met. That weight also comes with the ability to think big, imagine an interesting future for ACHS and put those innovations into place for future patrons.

Recently, the directors rewrote the mission and values statement to reflect a focus on documenting history as it occurs AND preserving the past that already happened. The board decided part of that invitation was expanding who could participate in the committees by removing the assumption it was for board members only. Now, as we not only search for new board members, we can also put out a call for volunteers interested in serving on one of four governance committees: Engage, Define Identity, Gather, and Management.

With this new set point in place, we heartily invite you to push your table up next to ours and bring all you are to the world of local history. Please contact ACHS to learn more about serving on a committee (rolling deadline) or to be listed on the ballot for one of the open positions on the Board of Directors (deadline March 19).



Thank you for your support!





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

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