

CARVER COUNTY
historical society

2019 Annual Report



 **Historic Andrew Peterson Farmstead**

© Kate Green



TO COLLECT, PRESERVE AND INTERPRET

THE HISTORY OF CARVER COUNTY

The Carver County Historical Society is a private, not-for-profit 501(C)3 organization serving the residents of Carver County and beyond. We are located across the street from Bayview Elementary School in downtown Waconia. We have five affiliate groups: Chaska Historical Society, Chanhassen Historical Society, Willkommen Heritage and Preservation Society of Norwood Young America, the Watertown Area Historical Society and the Waconia Heritage Association. In 2015, it celebrated its 75th anniversary. That same year, it added the Historic Andrew Peterson Farmstead to its collection.

Contents

- 3 President's Report
- 4 Executive Director's Report
- 5 Curator of Collections' Report
- 6 Researcher's Report
- 7 Administrative Assistant's Report
- 8 Curator of Education and Exhibits' Report
- 9 Statement of Financial Position
- 10 Volunteer Highlights
- 11 Images Through Time



Another Wonderful Year

Last year was a wonderful year for the Carver County Historical Society. We continue to make progress on the rehabilitation of the middle (1914) Peterson dairy barn. Our long rang plan for the building is as an interpretive/event welcoming center. By reusing the building we are not only saving a 100 year old building, we are saving money by not tearing down the building and building new. Just as important is that by saving and reusing the building we are protecting the visual impact of the farm.

2019 Highlights include:

- Our beloved Office Manager Linda Nelson retired. Linda ran the office for over 11 years. She will be missed, but we hear she is busier now than when she was working!
- Education Coordinator Heidi Gould accepted a job at Aitkin County Historical Society. She was with us for 9 years.
- We were awarded a number grants including a Legacy grant for \$111,400. This grant will pay for construction drawings for the Peterson house, granary and south barn. The work will be completed by Miller Dunwiddie. Miller Dunwiddie has been working with the Carver County Historical Society on the middle (1914) barn. The middle barn has seen tuck pointing on the stone foundation, and new beams alongside the cracked beams which threatened to destroy the old building. The future use of the barn will be as an interpretive/event center.
- A \$120,000 Google grant written by contractor Thomas Spargo. This grant provided any service we could use through Google. Services allowed us to use Google hangout and connect with people from anywhere in the word; a great communications opportunity.
- A \$610 Epson grant, for a new printer and scanner. This grant was written by Heidi and Jeremy.
- We hosted the National Endowment for the Humanities traveling exhibit-*For All the World to See*. We received a lot of community attention for this exhibit. A community workshop was held in conjunction with the Waconia Moravian Church. The workshop was led by Dr. Tim Berry.
- We started our capital fund drive for the Peterson farm on July 1. To date, we have received pledges in the amount of \$177,000. If we reach our \$500,000 goal by June of 2022 we will receive an additional \$250,000 from the Jeffris Family Foundation.
- The 3D inventory of items was completed. This was the first complete inventory done in about 50 years.
- The Andrew Peterson diaries were translated and published. This copy is owned by the CCHS and is available both online and in a hard copy.

None of this could have been accomplished without the capable staff at the CCHS. Thank you to the staff, the Board of Directors, and all our members for supporting our work. We could not do it without you.

Mike Fahey
CCHS 2019 Board President



Good Bye my old Friend

Writing the annual report forces me to look back on the year and ponder all that has transpired. I concluded that 2019 was a bittersweet, with both good and bad.

I think everyone would agree that life moves way too fast. Sometimes it takes the death of someone special, to make us stop and “ponder.” Our beloved CCHS volunteer, Rocky Bye, passed away the end of 2019. He liked to say he pondered in the woodworking shop at the CCHS. It is there that he painted the image at the bottom of this page. Looking at it reminds me, that we are all just passing through life. It is what he constructed in the CCHS shop that will never be forgotten.

Rocky was very special to all of us at the CCHS. He would enter my office and wait patiently, while I was focused on something on my computer. I have no idea how long he would stand there, but at some point, I would nearly have a heart attack after noticing him. He would start laughing and say, “Sorry, I didn’t mean to startle you.” He would follow this up with one of his stupid jokes: “I stayed up all night trying to figure out where the sun was. Then, it dawned on me.” I would groan and he would say, “Ok, I’ll leave you alone now.”

Rocky was a Vietnam veteran and was passionate about working on the mannequins in the Veterans Gallery. Several times people were startled by the realism of the faces. He loved to hear their squeals of surprise. Rocky, your stupid jokes and humor will be missed.

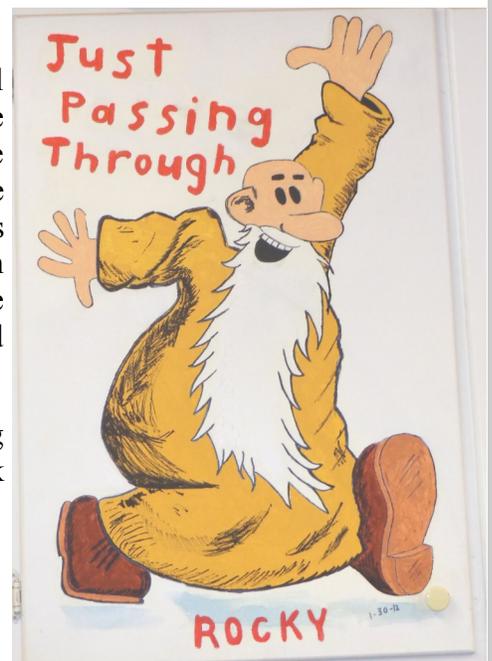
In October, Educator Heidi Gould left us after nine years, accepting a position with Aitkin County Historical Society. It was a good career move for her, and she is closer to her family. Miles Jewell was hired to fill her position. He has big shoes to fill, so if you have a chance, stop in and say “Hi.”

Office Manager, Linda Nelson retired in May. One of the first things she did after leaving was to take a trip to Sweden! She tells me she is enjoying her retirement. Dalene Woods is now at the front desk. I suspect she will do a great job keeping us all in line, just as Linda did.

Company wise, the big news is the kickoff of the capital fund drive for the Jeffris Family Foundation Challenge grant. The fundraising started July 1st and will continue through the end of June, 2022. By the end of 2019, we received pledges and donations of just over \$177,000. This includes \$60,230 from a \$111,400 Legacy grant awarded in December. The grant will be used to complete the construction drawings for the Peterson house, granary, and south barn.

As Rocky’s painting reminds us, we are all just passing through. To all our members, volunteers, and visitors, thank you for taking the time to make us part of your journey.

Wendy Petersen Biorn



Chaska History Center

It has been an exciting year for the Chaska Historical Society! Our all-volunteer organization has articulated our vision to “inspire an appreciation of Chaska’s diverse community today and in the future”—a first step in making that dream a reality! To achieve that goal, we follow our mission of stimulating community engagement in history by collecting, preserving, recording and sharing Chaska’s past and evolving history. We have been busy with many projects—including our main display on WWI and WWII in Chaska, created by Sarah Carlson, Julie Wiese, Jeanette McGillicuddy, and Beverly Westling under the coordination of Jayne Oddan. It was very well received, and allowed us to gain the best list we’ve ever had of the wars’ Chaska veterans.

In addition, we volunteers were busy working on our new website with city website guru Susan Marek (Check it out at www.chaskahistory.org); gathering the usual Herald quips; adding, organizing and recording new additions to the collections at the Chaska History Center; researching for individuals, families, and businesses; creating informative displays for the county fair and for winter months; and giving tours on the history of Chaska. We’ve also been busy researching and writing the sections for the forthcoming book, *Chaska: A Minnesota River City, 1950-2000*.

It’s been a busy year.

The benefits are great, however—we’ve had great responses to regular Facebook entries, to the Herald quips, to the displays, to the narration that accompanies the clip-clop of the horses pulling the carriages during the Oktoberfest and Hometown Holidays. And it’s always rewarding to share in the excitement of someone discovering a nugget of genealogical information or seeing great-grandma’s wedding dress! With our focus and purpose clearer than ever, we’re able to concentrate on those things that make the biggest difference to people.

Yes, it’s been a busy year, and it’s been a good one for the Chaska Historical Society. We look forward to 2020!

Willkommenn Heritage and Preservation Society

At Willkommen Heritage we dedicated most of the entire year to honoring our Veterans. It was a big year for both our American Legion and the VFW. In March the National Organization of the American Legion was 100 years old, and then in November our local Edward Born Legion Post 343 was 100 years old. The National Organization of the VFW turned 120 years old in 2019, and our local VFW was 89 years old in September.

The museum was filled with memory boards, artifacts and life stories. There was a display of one local family of men that served their country. George Ittel Sr., his son Donald and the George’s grandson John. We also researched and found many families of brothers that were on display. Our 3-ring binders of all veterans that served in the Civil War and all those that followed to current time were updated to the best of our knowledge. We researched all the National Cemeteries, in Minnesota, the United States, and Worldwide.

Special acknowledgement went to Henry Gesell, a Young America resident who served during World War I and was in the “Lost Battalion”.

The display stayed up through our community celebration of Stiftungsfest. Along with commemorating our Veterans we added the life history of the founder of the Pioneer Maennerchor and Anniversaries of two local businesses, Hillcrest, Lano Equipment.

After Veterans Day the Military Displays were taken down and our Annual Christmas was set up. The theme for this year’s display was Vintage Christmas

Our operating hours remain the same; Thursday, Friday & Saturday 10:00 – 2:00. We are located at 102 East Main St, NYA.

New Volunteers are always Welcome!!



Watertown Area Historical Society
Serving the History of Watertown and the surrounding area

The Watertown Area Historical Society has had a very busy year with several events and activities

Rails to Trails is always our largest event and this year we were asked to create a display celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the American Legion. Eugene Earley Post 121 provided assistance as well as uniforms from the five branches of the military. The display included many artifacts loaned or donated by families of local soldiers, as well as items on loan from

CCHS. Watertown soldiers killed in the Civil War through the Vietnam War were featured with biographies, photos, and ephemera.

Other activities included a Halloween display in the Watertown Community Center, where we participated in the trick-or-treating event put on by the Watertown Chamber of Commerce, and an open house at our new location. Also, President Corky Ibeling brought part of her large insect collection to the Watertown Elementary School for a demonstration.

And finally, our biggest news is our new location. We now have a room of our own, a former classroom, at the Watertown Primary School. We have been slowly migrating all of our items from storage to the new location. There is a new Senior Citizen lounge as well as rooms furnished for exercise and community Ed classes in the same part of the building. We were asked to participate in their open house, so we put up samples from many of our past displays. We are working towards a goal of rotating displays and having the room open for visitors, as well as bridging generations by providing demonstrations or classes for the seniors and the daycare children in the other part of the building.

Chanhassen Historical Society

The Chanhassen Historical Society has had an active year. First and foremost has been our effort to obtain stewardship of the Historic Village Hall (which is owned and maintained by the City). In April of 2019 the property was vacated by its renter and so stands empty. We have had our eye on the property for the last ten years, with the hope of making it our museum and base of operations. Presenting our proposal to the City Council has brought mixed results, with the council asking for a business plan to prove our sustainability. The Board continues to focus on demonstrating the worth of our organization to the council and the people of Chanhassen along with plans to obtain long-term funding from local businesses and community service organizations. It is our hope the council will come to see the importance of preservation in our community, with minimal cost to the City. We would like to thank the over 200 members and other concerned citizens who signed the petition in support of our endeavor.



The highlight of our activities this year was the bi-annual Cemetery Walk presented in partnership with the City of Chanhassen. This year marks our 7th performance and although it happened to be a particularly cold, wet and rainy day on October 5th, the event was attended by over 100 people.

All are welcome to attend our General Membership Meeting on April 23. It is our hope to hold it at the Historic Village Hall and we welcome anyone who is interested to come and have a look at this beautiful, historical building in the heart of Chanhassen.

Waconia Heritage Association

The Waconia Heritage Association is very grateful to Paul Melchert for his years of service to our community and especially to our association. He was a charter member when WHA was organized in 1983 and has continued to serve as president of the organization since then. As president, Paul oversaw the monumental task of gathering information, writing and publishing two books: WACONIA, Paradise of the Northwest: Vol. I, The Lake and its Island, and Vol. II, The Town and its People.



First and foremost, I am grateful for each of our volunteers, those who assist from their homes when we get special requests and for those who so faithfully come in on a regular basis to assist in making our Carver County Historical Society Library a better place for all who visit the Library. There have been months when much of our time has been spent assisting clients. At these times, “All hands on deck” have been required just to keep up with incoming research requests.

Throughout 2019, each of our volunteers has assisted with getting all marriage cards closer to completion. We make sure that each marriage partner has his and her own card and that all marriage related items are listed identically on each of the two cards. In addition, all multiple copies (for each party) are removed from the file drawers and the database after making certain all pertinent information has been documented on each partners card. This project was much larger and more extensive than we had imagined; with “progress” moving slower than we had estimated.

This summer, we were pleased to have a National Honor Society Student from Waconia High School assisting us for one or more days per week. Requiring minimal instruction for a variety of tasks, she was able to accomplish a great deal during her time at CCHS. We also added a new volunteer who comes in twice a week. With a love for gardening, she was a crucial participant in maintaining the beauty of our Museum gardens...weather permitting.

A number of our volunteers took a turn helping at the granary during the Carver County Fair. Everyone involved had a good time interacting with fair visitors.

We have categorized and alphabetized cards being worked on by subject matter, which in turn streamlines the process and eventual filing of completed card.

Revisions were made to the worksheets that are used with all cards being corrected. Every revision and tweak adheres to achieving “Best of Practices/Procedures.” It is proving to be one of the most successful processes thus far for each of the different steps that need to be performed.

Our online copy of John von Walter’s ‘work in progress’ regarding the book on the “Carver Historic District” has been alphabetized and indexed. We use this information when doing research for clients on the oldest homes and businesses within the City of Carver.

A long time needed project was activated in December. All of the library shelves were deep cleaned and reorganized for ease of use by clients & staff alike.

A complete inventory of all basic shelves was performed, including documentation, identification and a listing of object numbers for each item.

We will be implementing a complete library inventory in 2020, the start date of which is not yet finalized. We are very pleased with all of the improvements and achievements that have taken place in our Carver County Historical Society Library in 2019.

Marilyn A. Braun



Greetings!

I am Miles Jewell the new Curator of Education and Exhibits at the Carver County Historical Society. What a year it has been with lots of changes and exciting opportunities ahead at the CCHS! Before I continue, I want to extend a heartfelt thanks to my predecessor, Heidi Gould, who set me up for success and I wish her the best with her new endeavor as the Administrator of the Aitkin County Historical Society!

As usual, it has been a very busy year as we continue to present school and adult programming, as well as field trips and museum visits. Exhibits have been changed and rotated over the last year, with the kitchen exhibit transiting into the (National Endowment for the Humanities) traveling exhibit, For All The World To See. This exhibit, on visual culture and Civil Rights, was well received. It left our facility in early January. The next exhibit will be a traveling exhibit about New York's Coney Island with a tie in to our own Coney Island in Waconia. As always, there are the rotating displays in the libraries, which in 2020 feature some unusual tools, decorative fans and much more!

In 2020 you will see an increase in outreach and joint programming as we partner with more local organizations including Three Rivers Park District, the Carver County Parks and the Carver County Libraries. This summer we will be offering three history themed camps including, Pioneer Camp, Civil War and the much-anticipated Voyageur camp! There are lots of changes and exciting projects, camps and programs to look forward to in 2020!

The Andrew Peterson diary was completed and published with strong interest and sales in this latest translation. This diary is an unique perspective on farm life in Carver County. Its translators, Sharon Eklund, Carolyn Spargo, and Mathilda Fromentine have accomplished a mighty work!

As always, we would not be able to accomplish all we do without the aid of our volunteers. Over the course of this last year, volunteers helped with collections, the Farmstead, and the Library, completing 2,747.15 hours of service. Thank you to all of our wonderful Volunteers! We look forward to your continued service in 2020!

Miles Jewell



Last year, I had three and a half weeks on the job, at the time of the annual meeting, and still hadn't fully realized what I had gotten myself into! I was thrown in the deep end of my first Minnesota Legacy Amendment grant (and a large one!) inventorying the 3D object collection. I spent nearly two weeks going through and organizing all the items I had inherited in my office. The loving support of my wife, Rachel, and Golden Retriever, Kreacher, were still 440 miles away in Chicago, and four months from joining me. BUT, I am still here and enjoying it immensely, (Rachel and Kreacher included)!

The inventory of the 3D object collection was completed in May of 2019, with full approval from the Minnesota State Historical Society. During the inventory 12,157 object records were updated with images, condition reports, and locations. An additional 1,031 objects found without record files were added to our collection management system. With the completion of the inventory, accessibility to the 3D object collection has increased immensely for staff and the public.

Over the summer, I received valuable assistance from interns and volunteers as our phased project of inventorying the entire CCHS collection progressed to work on the Veterans Collection. Our goal for the Veterans Collection is to conduct a full inventory and assessment of the collection. The collection contains a large number of duplicate objects and objects that belong to veterans beyond Carver County. The reassessment and rehousing of the duplicate and non-Carver County objects will improve storage conditions and preservation of the collection as a whole, while maintaining the means to honor and share the stories of Carver County's veterans.

College students, Daniel Scharfenberg and Andrew Hoffman, served as interns updating records and photographing objects in the Veterans Collection. A Waconia High School student has been volunteering to inventory and organize the Veterans Library. Their work is being supported by the Veterans Advisory Committee consisting of CCHS board members and local veterans. The committee is working closely with me to assess the collection and locate veteran's organizations or other museums which may make use of our duplicate and non-Carver County objects.

Beyond the major projects, we continue to receive a steady stream of donations for possible addition to the CCHS collection. In the past year, 164 items were added to the CCHS collections from forty-five different donations. Each item accepted has made the CCHS collections a fuller and more encompassing record of Carver County's communities and residents.

I look forward to the promise of a new year!

In pursuit of the past,

Jeremy Murray

Thank you Volunteers!

2019 VOLUNTEER HOURS

2019 Total	2,747.15
2018 Total	2138.50
2017 Total	2071.75
2016 Total:	2050.9

1-50 Hours

Shawn Johnson, *Library*
 Lois Schulstad, *Library*
 Bonnie Young, *Library*
 Mark Smith, *carpentry*

51-100 Hours

Delora Wallner, *Library*
 Gladys Wolter, *Library*
 Judy Aarness –*Library*
 Laurel Means, *Library*
 Bonnie Young, *Library*

101-199 Hours

Lowell Dammann, *Library*
 Mary Loehrs, *Library*
 Cindy Shatek, *Library*
 Mary Loehrs, *Library*
 Elaine Wischnack, *Library*
 Ann Soderstrom, *Library*
 Dorene Murphy, *Library*
 Delora Wallner, *Library*

200+ Hours

Mary Lou Teubert, *Library*
 Liam Gunderson, *Vets Gallery*

**And the Winner is:
 Orville Mackenthun
 774 hours**

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE 2019

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Mike Fahey, *President*
 Mark Willems, *Vice-President*
 Lin Deardorff, *Treasurer*
 Marta Beckett *Secretary*
 Mathew McDougall
 Mike Coleman
 JJ Norman
 Burton Johnson
 Gerry Johnson
 Al Bongard
 Randy Maluchnik, *County Liaison*
 Peter Gustafson



Meet Miles our new Educator, Civil War reenactor
 Private Miles Jewell

By the Numbers

Carver County Historical Society Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2019

2019 Balance Sheet- unaudited

		Total
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Old National		75,326.10
101 Building Fund		12,158.31
10100 Petty Cash		37.86
102 Museum Collection Fund		3,814.97
105 Thrivent Financial		70,864.84
Total Bank Accounts	\$	162,202.08
Other Current Assets		
12100 Inventory Asset		130.96
Total Other Current Assets	\$	130.96
Total Current Assets	\$	162,333.04
Fixed Assets		
14000 Peterson Farm		258,649.99
15000 Furniture and Equipment		40,202.17
15001 ScanPro2000		10,604.34
Total 15000 Furniture and Equipment	\$	50,806.51
15050 Exhibits		19,789.50
15900 Leasehold Improvements		197,028.92
17100 Accumulated Depreciation		-95,408.58
Total Fixed Assets	\$	430,866.34
Other Assets		
10110 Paypal		-0.16
1021 Acquisitions		316.25
10900 Endowment Fund Investment		161,082.00
10905 Gain (Loss) on Endowment Fund		10,258.00
Total Other Assets	\$	171,656.09
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	764,855.47
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
18900 Damage Deposit A. P. Farm		800.00
24100 Accrued Leave and Payroll		4,106.05
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$	4,906.05
Total Current Liabilities		
Total Liabilities	\$	0.00
Equity		
30000 Opening Bal Equity		-3.78
31300 Perm. Restricted Net Assets		159,901.00
31500 Temp. Restricted Net Assets		27,517.00
32000 Unrestricted Net Assets		601,154.23
Net Income		-33,747.49
Total Equity	\$	754,820.96
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$	754,820.96



555 West First Street Waconia, MN 55387 952-442-4234

1/15/20/WPB