



# Transcending Time

CARVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

39/1: Winter, 2018

## 2017 in Review

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CCHS President

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Membership Update &  
Donations

“History is that certainty produced at the point where the imperfections of memory meet the inadequacies of documentation.”  
— Julian Barnes



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### Volunteer of the year

Ann Soderstrom



Ann Soderstrom completed over 365 hours of service. A vital member of the Library team, Ann helps track down and correct names, dates, and other miscellaneous issues in the newspaper index. She provides assistance with other projects as needed and is always willing to take on a new challenge. Her bright smile and natural humor make her a joy to be around. Thank you Ann!

#### 2017 VOLUNTEER HOURS

Collections .....	218.5
Library .....	1853.25
<b>2017 Total</b>	<b>2071.75</b>
<b>2016 Total</b>	<b>2050.9</b>

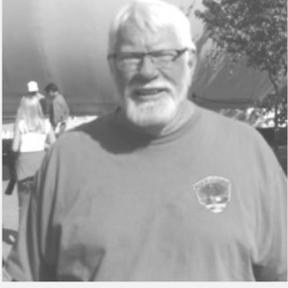
### Dave Granlund presents at the Annual Meeting



Political cartoonist Dave Granlund was the featured speaker at the 2018 Annual Meeting. His career has taken him all over the world and resulted in receiving nationally and international awards.

Thank you, Dave, for a wonderful presentation.

## A Year in Review



The Carver County Historical Society has been blessed with an exceptionally skilled and dedicated staff. As a group, they are professional, talented, and committed to the vision and goals of the organization. In addition, the people we are fortunate enough to work with, under the exceptional leadership of Executive Director Wendy Petersen Biorn, are excellent organizers and communicators. Evidence of their skillful communications includes the astounding success they have achieved in applying for and receiving grants.

2017 saw the Carver County Historical Society receive a total of \$271,830 in grant and donated funds.

Larger individual contributions to this total include the following:

- Legacy direct from the state- to be paid out over 2 years \$160,000
- Minnesota Council for Nonprofits -\$124 to attend a financial conference
- Carver County Foundation- \$500 for the historic structures report
- Swedish Council of America - \$2,000 to publish the Peterson diaries
- Legacy- \$9,782 to translate the Peterson diaries
- Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative- \$2,200 to buy a large lawn mower for the farm
- Legacy- \$97,224 for collections inventory and photographing the 3D collection- an amount that will allow the Society to employ two staff members for 15 months.

Executive Director Petersen Biorn traveled to Sweden partially funded by a grant from the American Swedish Institute to investigate building techniques and styles and to reaffirm relationships with the leadership of the Andrew Peterson Society in Sweden.

In addition, the Society celebrated the successful completion of the restoration of the Historic Andrew Peterson Farmstead North Barn.

Perhaps, most satisfying, was the successful completion of the Historic Structures Report, a process that required many written and face to face communications to accomplish.

The Historical Society is positioned to make significant strides the years ahead in all of its endeavors. We celebrate the successes and anticipate a bright future.

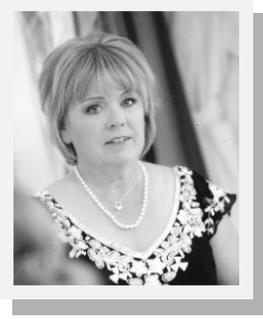
Respectfully Submitted:

Peter Gustafson, Board Chair

### **SPECIAL THANKS TO THE 2017**

#### **BOARD of DIRECTORS**

Peter E. Gustafson , *President*  
Darlene Fasching, *Vice-President*  
Lin Deardorff, *Treasurer*  
Mathew McDougall *Secretary*  
Maureen Farrell,  
Mark Willems  
Mike Coleman  
Mike Fahey  
Burton Johnson  
Maureen Farrell  
Dan Lund  
Randy Maluchnik, *County Liaison*



"All Great Achievements take time."

Maya Angelou

I wish they didn't. I wish things could be accomplished now. I mean right now. No waiting. Just snap your fingers and everything will be done perfectly, as envisioned.

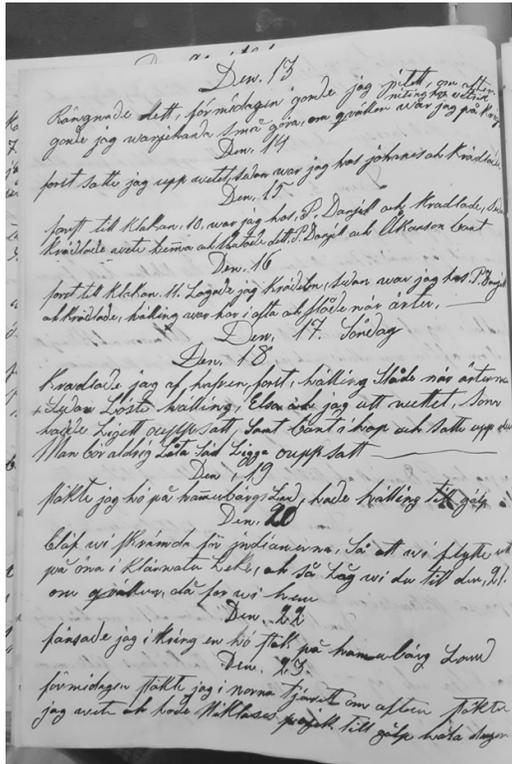
But, if one stops for just a moment in this hurry up world, we might realize that taking the time to do something, also means we can enjoy the journey. A quote from

one of my favorite actors, Benedict Cumberbatch reads "Enjoy the journey of life and not just the end game." The end game of life, is not above ground; something to think about.

I had hoped by now we would be well on our way into a capitol fundraising campaign for the Historic Andrew Peterson Farmstead. Indeed, we had taken all the right steps. We had raised the funds for the Historic Structures Report, (HSR), and were planning on being in a full-fledged campaign by now. A seven month delay completing the HSR threw everything back. By the time the document was done, we had missed the deadline to be considered for a 2018 capitol match.

While this delay is a great disappointment, the words of Maya Angelou came back to me. We are not out of the game; we have just slowed down in order to make sure things are done right. Therein lays the key.

In 2017, the State of Minnesota, thanks to Jim Nash and Joe Hoppe, approved a donation of \$80,000 per year for the next two years, to be used for restoration work at the Peterson Farmstead. The next step after the HSR is to have structural drawings completed of the buildings that can be used by a builder to bid from. Also to consider, we received enough money to have the drawings completed, and we may even have enough to come close to completing the south barn. Not a bad deal. Even more important, we have time to plan for a larger fundraising. Royce Yeater from Jeffris even offered to volunteer his time as a consultant for the restoration work on the buildings at the farm.



In the meantime, Curator of Collections Adam Smith slipped in writing and winning a \$97,224 grant to have a full inventory of the 3D collections. Curator of Education and Exhibits, Heidi Gould wrote an almost \$10,000 grant to have the Peterson diaries translated. Those two grants alone, are pretty good use of "down" time.

All great achievements do take time. We just need to slow down enough to enjoy the journey and appreciate the efforts of everyone along the way. Thank you to everyone who has helped, donated time or money, and given generously with their words of encouragement. Indulge me with one final quote, from Hillary Clinton, "It takes a village to raise a child." Or in our case, it takes many hands to save a farm. Thank you to everyone who has helped. Your efforts are making the difference.

Wendy Petersen Biorn  
Executive Director

Image from the original Peterson diary at MNHS



2017 was a busy year for me both personally and professionally. I began my position as the Curator of Collections in April, 2017, after wanting to move with my now-wife to the Le Sueur area. Not only did I start a new job and move, but I got married, bought a home and went to Great Britain. A busy year indeed!

After working at the Stearns History Museum for 4 and half years, I attempted to hit the ground running at the CCHS. I've concentrated the majority of my time on accessioning and cataloging 90 separate donations of artifacts along with completing a number of old accessions which were previously started. There have been some fascinating artifacts including the uniform of the first female fire fighter in Chaska, photos taken in Paisley Park by Ginnie Love and a collection of slides consisting of photos from the Vietnam War taken by Myron Karki. One of the other fun projects has been rehousing the collections to improve access and preservation of the artifacts. This process was made easier by the Veteran's Service Office relocating to the Government Center in Chaska in August. We determined that space would be best utilized for collections storage and we are currently in the process of acquiring materials to move artifacts there.

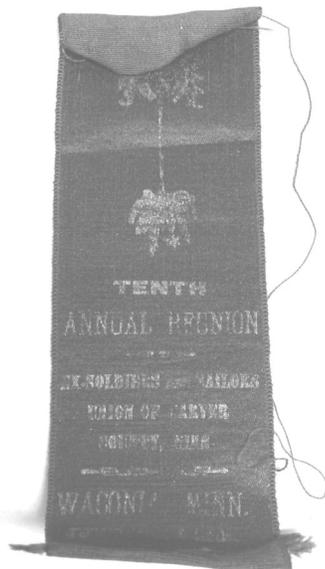
I have enjoyed spending time learning about the Historic Andrew Peterson Farmstead and all it encompasses. I supervised our Summer Youth Employment Program with lawn maintenance and volunteers from Crown College cleaning up debris at the farmstead along with preparing the carriages and wagons for display at a wedding ceremony held late in the summer. I was also involved in the discussions with Historic Structures Report which has been fascinating.

One of the reasons I went into the museum field was to work with exhibits and tell the wonderful stories that the artifacts tell. It was a pleasure to work with Heidi this past year on a number of exhibit projects both large and small, including "Quilts" and "Railroads in Carver County" along with a handful of smaller exhibit cases in the front of the building and in the county libraries. Please take time to visit the fun exhibits available for viewing at the museum.

This last year I was involved with some grant projects. I worked with Heidi to close out the first phase of our collections cleanup which saw Diane Ittel complete the data entry for the white sheets in the collection. This summer, we applied for a grant through the Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Program of the Arts and Cultural Heritage fund (Legacy Amendment) to fully inventory the 3D collections at the museum. This grant, which was approved (yay!), will begin early next year and includes hiring two museum collections specialists to record locations, update metadata and photograph all of the 3D artifacts in the museum.

I've enjoyed getting to know the collections of the Carver County Historical Society and work to preserve your history and stories for generations to come. Thank you for this opportunity to serve you.

Adam Smith



At left: One of several photos donated by Ginnie Love of the interior of Paisley Park in the early 2000s.

I have been cataloging a collection of ribbons from the Ex-Soldiers and Sailors Union of Carver County. I need to do some more research, but it appears the organization was related to the Grand Army of the Republic, comprised of veterans from the American Civil War. These ribbons belonged to Pehr Daniel Anderson a neighbor and relative to Andrew Peterson. Anderson, who fought in Company A of the 4th MN from 1864 to 1865.





During the winter, a translated list that pre-dates our Carver County Index books of (mainly) East and West Union Marriage records was typed up. These records came from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter and were translated by Susanne Danielson Thilquist. This list was added to the East and West Union book on our Family Tree bookshelf.

During the summer months, our team compiled a Master list of surnames from the existing indexes in the family tree books, stored in the Library. This list became a cross-reference of where you could find a family name which did not have its own Family Tree book. This Master Index has been of great help to clients and staff alike. So far, two heavily used Family Tree books, that had no index, have been completed.

In September, we attended the Fall Conference of the Swedish Genealogy Society of Minnesota. Many people visited our table who were interested in the Historic Andrew Peterson Farmstead and in the Carver County Historical Society.

We continue to make corrections to vital statistic cards in the index drawers. We are at approximately 30% complete. We have made updates to the file cabinet folders which include the Family Histories and the Personal Papers cabinet file drawers. We are putting some finishing touches on the Subject file drawers. The Cemetery file drawers are currently in process.

The number of visitors to the Library continues to increase. We have noticed some changes however. More people are taking photos of documents with their cameras, instead of making copies. We started documenting digital photo use trends in 2016. By the end of 2017 the number of digital photos had increase by 1178. While the trend was expected, it does affect us financially as we do not receive payment for copies made. It is all part of the movement of saving documents digitally, instead of using hard copies.

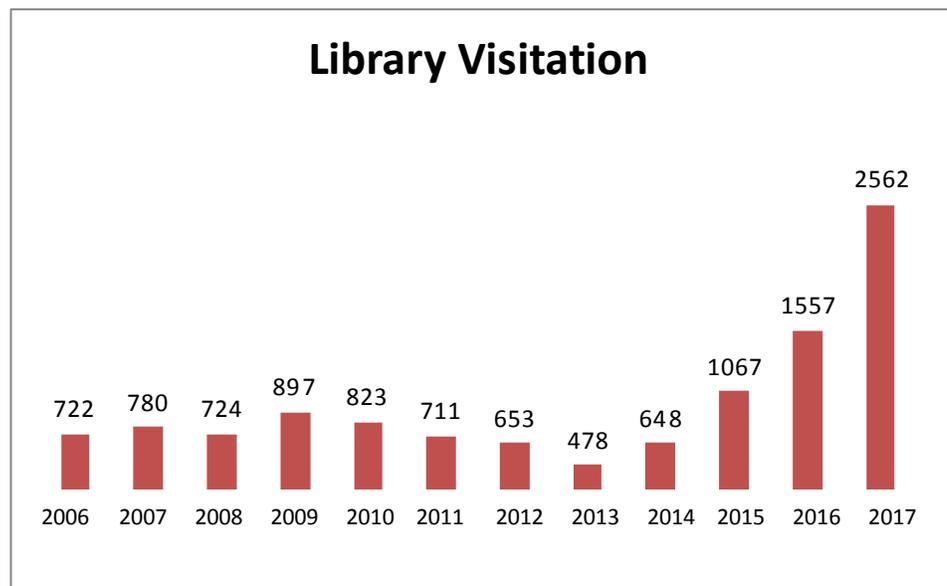
I cannot thank all our dedicated volunteers enough. Without them, we would be “spinning our wheels.” We have 10 that come in regularly. Some only work two hours while others come as many as 8 or more weekly. We also have some on-call volunteers that work when there is a project that fits into their schedule. Others assist from their homes, sharing their knowledge of historical or genealogical specialties with us, as needed. There are 10 non-regular volunteers.

We would love to show you in person, all the wonderful improvements we have made to make your research visit easier. While here, consider thanking those who give so generously of their time.

Marilyn A. Braun

#### Volunteers Needed:

- Alphabetize index cards
- Separate index cards according to category (i.e. births, marriages. . .)
- Verify written cards against Carver County Birth, Death, and Marriage indexes
- Light research
- Organization/monitoring of periodicals rack





What a busy year it has been! There was some shuffling of job titles, so I am now also in charge of exhibits, besides education and volunteers. My title is now Curator of Education and Exhibits. This was done so the new Curator, Adam, would have more time available for farm buildings, which are considered large collections pieces.

My first exhibit opened in March, designed with the help of Mary Carlson. Inspired by Mary's donation of the old *Waconia Patriot's* editor's desk, and her father, Biffer Miller's, work as editor and owner. Currently, there is also an exhibit about trains on temporary display, and the usual 4 library cases.

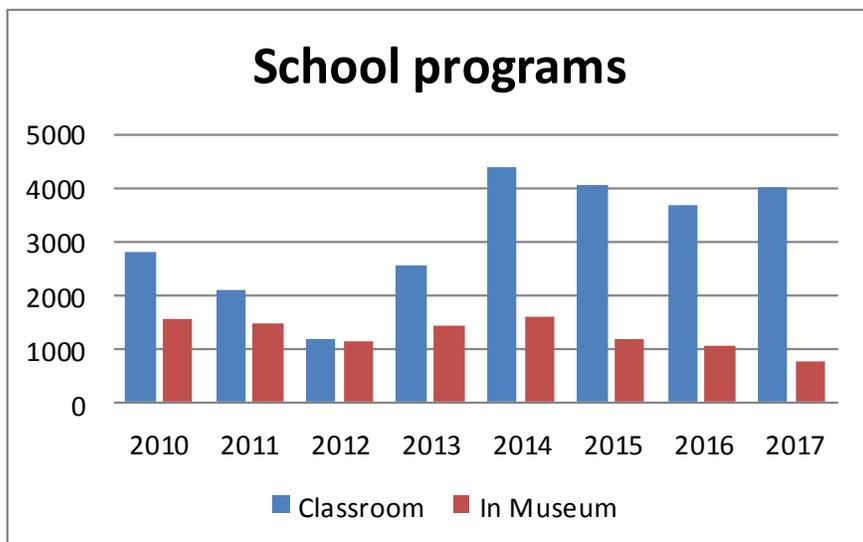
As far as education goes, I have visited some new schools and grades this year, increasing my outreach. I also have a new project in the works with the high school. Still in the planning stages, this project will help get students out of the classroom to learn in real world settings, while still getting school credit. Based on progress, we should begin implementation in Fall 2018. As of now, I am working only with Waconia High School, with plans for future expansion of the program.

Our most successful program last year was the Swedish Language 101 course. This was so popular, we will offer it again this coming year, as well as offering German Language 101. Camps were also well attended, and campers who have aged out have chosen to be camp helpers this coming summer. Joint camps with the County Parks and Libraries are continuing to be offered and adapted as attendance changes.

In December, we received notice of a grant award for the translation of the Andrew Peterson diaries. A previous Swedish Council of America grant will pay publication costs for this 3-phase project. These diaries are a unique resource, but with limited availability to researchers and historians. The Swedish originals are at the MN Historical Society, and the 4 existing English copies are only in the Twin Cities area. One English copy is owned by the CCHS. This grant will fund a translation we will own the copyright to, which will allow us to publish the diaries in book form, making them more readily and widely available. I will be working closely with Wendy and the translator to complete this project.

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 in Collections, the Farmstead, and the Library, and completed 2,071.75 hours of service. Thank you Volunteers! We look forward to your service continuing in 2018!

Heidi Gould



***New CCHS Members (Oct.-Dec. 2017)***

- Robert Bohm
- Michelle Carroll
- Deardorff Orchards
- Kelly Geier
- Jill Hoffman
- Michael Hopfenspirger
- Linda Karow
- Joe Kelzer
- Jon Little
- Tim & Dawn Peterson – One Year Complimentary membership
- Neal Piek
- Karen Schneider
- Jacque Stavsvick



Another year has passed and I am approaching my 10th year at Carver County Historical Society. Where has the time gone!

As the year starts, I am always busy with year end and insurance reports and cleaning out my many files for a clean start in the new year.

We closed out 2017 with 723 members which includes our affiliates Chanhasen Historical with 156 members, Chaska Historical with 123 members, Willkommen Heritage with 52 members and Watertown Historical with 17 members and the CCHS membership with 375.

We are trying to use less paper and relying on the internet and email to send out renewal letters, newsletters, eblasts and the Annual Fund Drive letters. This includes moving our membership data base to a new Customer Resource Management tool, Salesforce. Salesforce is a cloud based program which will help us integrate all the many lists from each department. It acts like a large rolodex.

This past fall, we started using a mailing service to mail out the Annual Fund letters and possibly our future newsletters, which will cut down on mailing costs. The Annual Fund letters were mailed out last November.

More and more of our members are looking at our website to attain information about photos, newspaper articles, paying their annual dues and seeing what we have in our online gift shop. Our biggest seller this year was *Waconia Paradise of the Northwest – The Town and its People*. *Waconia Paradise of the Northwest – The Lake and its Island* was runner up. Thank you Waconia Heritage Association for creating 2 beautiful books loaded with local history and pictures!! Shout out to Joann Gorman from the Waconia Heritage for repeatedly dropping off books for us!! The gift shop has the following new items for sale: Andrew Peterson Tourism book, *Prairie Grass & Other Leaves: Short Stories* book and *The Unknown Swedes*. We have several of our books for sale at Mackenthun's, Minnesota Historical Society, American Swedish Institute and on Amazon.

It's hard to believe it will be 10 years of working here, this Spring! That went fast!

Linda Nelson

***Renewing CCHS Members***

Lars & Nancy Akerberg  
Liz Beiersdorf  
Brian Bergs  
Todd Brueshoff  
Timothy Budd  
George Byerly  
Mary Carlson  
Nancy Clarke  
Doris Cogelow  
Christine Cole  
Mike & Kathy Coleman  
Carol Dammann  
John & Patricia Devins  
Lori Ende  
Darlene Fasching  
Clarence Feltman  
Albert & Bonnie Furman  
Randall Grimm

***October-December 2017***

Nancy Grosshans  
Pamela Groth  
Peter & JoAnne Gustafson  
Natalie Jago  
Geraldine Johnson  
Judith Johnson  
Paula Johnson  
James Johnston  
Tom & Eleanor Kottke  
Herb & Joyce Lins  
Marilu Luetke Peters  
Paul Maas  
Ronald & Elsie Machtemes  
Linda Maxwell  
Theresa Mendiola  
Karla Menzel  
Marc Michelsen  
Kathy Middendorf

Stephanie Murphy  
David & Doris Nelson  
Carol Olson  
Robert & Susan Olson  
Margaret Osborne  
Michael Peterson  
Neal Piek  
Gaylene Poretti  
Helen Radde  
Virginia Rowe  
Karen Schindler  
Linda Schlegelmilch  
Lois Schulstad  
Jerry Scott  
Richard Scott  
Mark Smith  
Carol & Ann Soderstrom  
Kevin Sons  
Jerry & Lois Wessale  
Rita Zrust

# CARVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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### Museum & Library Hours

Mon.-Fri., 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### Board Members

Peter Gustafson (President),  
Waconia  
Darlene Fasching (VP), Minnetrista  
Lin Deardorff, (Treasurer) Waconia  
Matthew McDougall (Secretary)  
Waconia  
Dan Lund, Chanhassen  
Gerry Johnson, Waconia  
Michael Fahey, Carver  
Mike Coleman, Cologne  
Burton Johnson, Chaska  
Mark Willems, Cologne  
Maureen Farrell, Chanhassen  
Randy Maluchnik (County Liaison),  
Chaska

### Staff

Wendy Petersen Biorn (Exec.  
Director)  
wbiorn@co.carver.mn.us  
Adam Smith (Curator)  
asmith@co.carver.mn.us  
Heidi Gould (Curator  
Education/Exhibits)  
hgould@co.carver.mn.us  
Marilyn Braun (Researcher)  
mbraun@co.carver.mn.us  
Linda Nelson (Office Mgr.)  
lnelson@co.carver.mn.us

## CARVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEW MEMBER FORM

- Senior Citizen \$15.00
- Individual \$20.00
- Family \$30.00
- Sustaining \$55.00
- Please mail me my newsletter.
- Please accept my donation of \_\_\_\_\_ toward your annual fund drive.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Gift Membership to: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

The Carver County Historical Society is a nonprofit organization supported by memberships and contributions from county residents, business, and government. All members receive *Transcending Time*, this newsletter.