

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2023



ANKENY AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY *Volume 30 Number 2*

2023 Officers

JoAnn Adamson, Co-President
Lois O'Donnell, Co-President
Carmine Boal, Vice-President
Rosemary Hutton Taylor,
Secretary
Jim Nervig, Treasurer

2023 Board of Directors

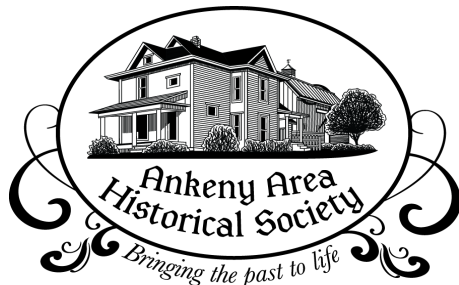
Elaine Brazelton
Billie Broich
Sue Davidson
Jason Duke
Bob Fontana
Rob Logan
JoEllen Nervig
Joe Pitts
Jeanne Uhl

Ex-Officio

Dr. Erick Pruitt
Ron Sampson
John Stratton

Office Manager

Sandy McClure



301 SW Third, PO Box 1111
Ankeny, IA 50021
Phone: 515-965-5795

Email: history@ankenyhistorical.org
www.ankenyhistorical.org

Message from the President

Ankeny School Days – Old and New

Did you know the first school inside the town of Ankeny was located on about the same place as the museum is today? We don't mean "Central" that was built in 1909 and had students from kindergarten to twelfth grade. There was a different school dated back to the 1850s. It was a small one-room log school house with a handful of students, and it was moved several times before landing at SW 3rd and SW School Streets. Eventually, it was replaced by Central that stayed until the tornado of 1974 damaged it enough for condemnation.

There were eight other one room school houses around the outside of the town center. Maybe, you've heard of some of them: Greenwood, Oralabor, Union, Sexauer, Enterprise, Riley, Nagle and Prairie Green. Pictures of these old schools are displayed in the barn at the museum, and a new video shows the evolution of the schools.



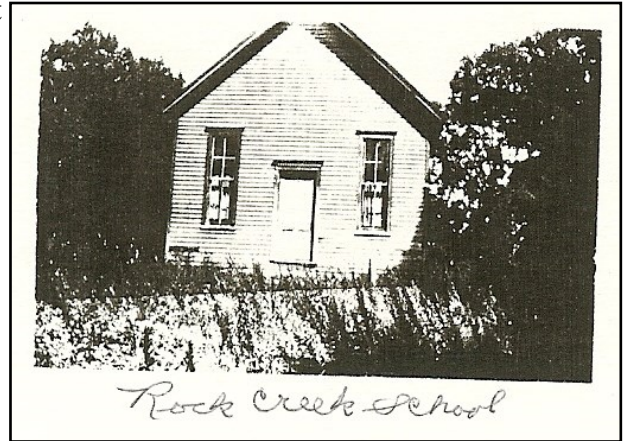
Prairie Green School

(Continued)

A Message From the President—*continued*

From these humble beginnings, Ankeny Schools have expanded into what we have today. Neveln School, built in the 1920's, was named after the first superintendent Ed Neveln and housed the high school (and later, some junior high classes). As the city grew, so did the number of schools. In 1951, Parkview elementary was built, followed by Northwest, East, Southeast, Northeast, Terrace, Crocker, Ashland Ridge, Rock Creek, Prairie Trail, Westwood, Heritage elementary schools (and Abbie Grove in 2024). Two high schools (Ankeny and Centennial) and four middle schools (Northview, Prairie Ridge, Southview, and Parkview) complete the list.

The Ankeny Area Historical Society has always been affiliated with our schools. First, we are located on school property at 3rd and School Streets. We also invite students to visit on field trips and school work days. The museum has dedicated a portion of the barn to our schools, and recently added a display of all the school sports championships over the years.



In April, three of us from the Society were invited to participate in the Ankeny Superintendent Dr. Erick Pruitt's podcast, where he invites local representatives to discuss different areas of city interest. JoAnn Adamson, Evan Albaugh (local college intern), and I were able to discuss Ankeny's history ... and the Society's history ... and how they have changed over the years. This was a great activity for us, as it gave us a chance to do what we enjoy so much – talking about Ankeny's history – and emphasized the combination of “old and new.” Using technology to spread the conversation – it's a wonderful way to move into the future with the artifacts of days gone by. We hope you will visit the museum this year and see for yourself all the delightful items on display and learn a little bit more about our fine city.

Listen here: [Podcasts-Ankeny Community School District \(ankenyschools.org\)](https://www.ankenyschools.org/podcasts) - from April 4, 2023

Yours in history,

Lois O'Donnell

HERITAGE CORNER



“Welcome to Ankeny...God's Country”
---Ron Fontana

We hope you'll stop by soon and visit Heritage Corner, located on the northeast corner of our museum property at 301 SW School St. New landscaping was installed and partially donated by local TNT Landscaping & Nursery, with the remainder being financed through memorials given in honor of Bonnie Ballard, Tina Battani and Linda Thorson. The bench was purchased by the Fontana family in honor of their father Ron Fonana and Ed Neveln. Memorial name plaques will be installed at the site in the near future.

The History of Logli Grocery Store

Do you remember shopping at Logli's Super Valu? Or perhaps even working there after school and on the weekends as a teen? Did your grandmother collect Gold Bond Stamps she earned from her grocery shopping? Well, guests were given the opportunity to reminisce and share their memories on Sunday, May 21st, when Mark Logli, grandson of the store's founder Pete Logli, shared the history of the grocery store which was originally located in old Uptown Ankeny in 1908 and later relocated to the NW corner of HWY 69 and Main (3rd Street) in the mid-1950s.

Our gratitude to Mark for sharing his family heritage at this fun presentation and preserving this history for future generations!

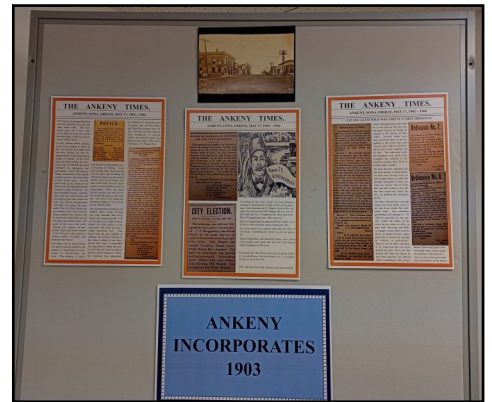
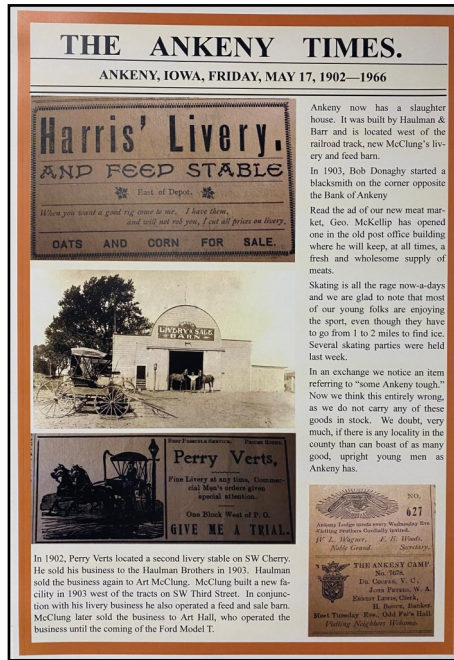


New Exhibit at The Ankeny Area Historical Society: Ankeny Incorporates 1903

Did you know that although Ankeny was founded in 1875 by John and Sarah Ankeny, the city was not incorporated until January 25, 1903? Visit our new exhibit to learn why Ankeny was incorporated!

Even in 1903, Ankeny was progressing at a fast pace.. See what local citizens helped make the incorporation happen, along with discovering what local businesses Ankeny had and what school and community life was like at that time.

Thanks to longtime volunteer Rosemary Hutton Taylor for designing this interesting exhibit.



Residents' Choice Award Runner-Up!



We are honored on being voted a favorite in the Ankeny/Northern Polk County Residents' Choice poll! In March, Co-Presidents JoAnn Adamson and Lois O'Donnell (shown in the photo above) were presented with a certificate by Ankeny Living Magazine's Aaron Burns.



In April, AAHS volunteers were invited to participate at Ankeny Centennial High School by sharing their knowledge and memories of growing up in Ankeny in the 1950s, 60s, and 70s along with the suburbanization of the area.

The event took place for an entire school day, with speakers divided up amongst classroom settings of about 20-25 students in each.

Thanks to Centennial Social Studies instructor Tony Klein, along with the following AAHS volunteers:

JoAnn Adamson	Sue Davidson	Cathy Handley
Dave Hoover	Tom Jones	Lois O'Donnell
Rosemary Hutton Taylor		

We Appreciate Our Volunteers!

Volunteers are the lifeline of AAHS and without them, we would not be able to share Ankeny's remarkable history in our museum house and barn. On April 22nd, member JoEllen Nervig organized a cleaning crew at the barn in preparation of our spring and summer events. Ankeny Centennial HS instructor Dave Richard brought a hardworking group of senior class students on May 11th to spruce up the house and spread some much needed mulch into the landscaping.

If you have an interest in history, have a skill to share or just like the idea of giving back to your community, please call us at 515-965-5795 or email history@ankenyhistorical.org. Whether it be volunteering regularly, periodically or just once, we have something for you!



Kay Triplett and Carmine Boal (shown above) along with Karla Kasper and Lois O'Donnell (shown below) lend a hand at the barn museum cleaning event on April 22nd.



Above, instructor Dave Richard poses with his Centennial HS senior students, in addition to AAHS members Charlie Hart, Lois O'Donnell, Joan Jensen and JoAnn Adamson.

Centennial HS students put forth a lot of effort while helping at the house museum exterior on May 11th! (shown below). What a fantastic group!



Upcoming Summer 2023

Events at the Museum



- June 6 Jefferson Highway Iowa
Sociability Caravan 9:00 - Noon
- June 14 A Night at the Museum 6 - 8pm
- June 25 Ice Cream Social 2 - 4pm
- June-August Summer Open Houses
Saturdays: 10am - Noon
- July 8 Summerfest Open House
Special Hours: Noon - 3pm
- July 26 RAGBRAI 9am - 3pm



**Ankeny Area Historical Society
Presents**



A NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM



**Featuring Ankeny native
Kent Stock, inspirational speaker
and subject of the 2007 movie
"The Final Season".**

**Meet & Greet at 6PM
Then stay to hear about his
remarkable life at 7:30PM.**

**Tour our museum
where local characters from
the past come
to life and tell about Ankeny's
history!**

**Bring your friends for
an unforgettable night of
history and fun!**

**FREE ADMISSION, BUT
DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS
APPRECIATED.**

WED, JUNE 14, 2023

DOORS OPEN AT 6PM

**301 SW THIRD ST
ANKENY, IA**





**ANKENY AREA HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Here's the Scoop:

SUNDAY, JUNE 25 | 2-4PM

**HOMEMADE PIES,
CAKES & BROWNIES**

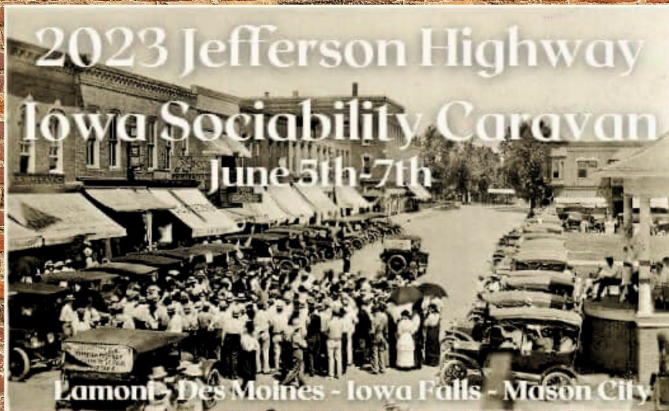
**FREE WILL DONATION
ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**ENJOY THE LIVE MUSIC
AND YARD GAMES**

**301 SW Third Street
Ankeny, IA**



Join AAHS on June 6th, 9:00am - Noon
as AAHS hosts
the Jefferson Highway Tour,
featuring the Central Iowa
Model A Club!



Have you noticed the “Celebrate Our Ankeny History” sign on the front of the house museum? What an awesome addition to spread the word about what AAHS is all about! The banner, generously donated by local business supporter SignCraft, was installed by AAHS members Tom and Karen Jones.



DONATIONS

Without the philanthropy of our donors, the programs and improvements to our museum would not be possible. We wish to publicly thank you for your generosity.

General Donations:

Lyle Adams	Laura Benjamin	Adam & Bobbi Bentz	Jo Ann Burgess
Sid & Barb Conkel	Connie Doubleday	William Dyche	Barbro Garland
David & Patricia Hykes	Tom & Karen Jones	Karla Kasper	Katie Kendall
David Liechty	Kip Lilly	Virginia Logli	Raymond J Miller
Pauline Moon	Terry & Vicky Peter	Robert Pitts	Tom & Joan Quinlin
Linda Logli Randolph	Dee Reynolds	Eugene Samuelson	Everett & Patricia
Roger & Sandra Spahr	Paula Williams	Karla Wright	Donald & Carolyn Zuck

Memorial monies donated in memory of the following individuals:

Alan Jones Linda Thorson

Your donations are truly appreciated. Please accept our apology if your name was not included with this issue.

Please accept our
gratitude for the continued
support and generosity from
these organizations!

