

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025



ANKENY AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 32 Number 1

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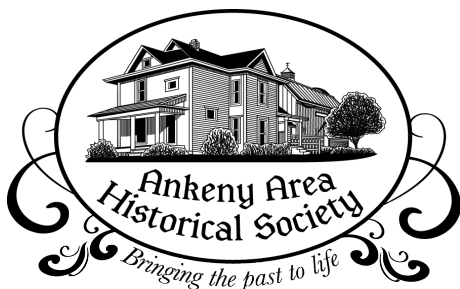
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Message from the President

ANKENY – THEN AND NOW!

Oh, my, oh, my! So much has happened over the past 150 years – our sesquicentennial -- here in our hometown of Ankeny! Just where do we begin? Whether you are *New Ankeny*, *Longtime Ankeny*, or *Old Ankeny*, it is apparent this is truly the “City on the Move” and the “Up and Coming”! Recently, it was announced that Ankeny is the fifth, yes 5th, largest city in the state of Iowa.



Throughout the year, the Historical Society has hosted gatherings to celebrate our history. Follow our posts on Facebook and watch our website for upcoming events. So far this year, the Historical Society has honored the Police Department and asked the Honorable Mayor Bobbi Bentz to speak at the museum, among other fun open houses.

A new professionally-produced video has been created and is available on our website www.ankenyhistorical.org or on YouTube (Ankeny Sesquicentennial). This is a tremendous piece you will really enjoy that tells our remarkable story, covering the past to the present of our great city!

This summer on Saturday, July 12th, Ankeny will salute its truly remarkable 150 years. Make plans to attend the many events that will take place to celebrate Ankeny. Summerfest will include a parade with the theme “Celebrate Ankeny through the Decades.” The Historical Society will sponsor a “Chicken Dinner at the AMP” after the parade, similar to the dinners held annually in the park back in the day. Tickets are “pre-sold” in the museum office or on our website for \$25 donation.

The Historical Society will have a float in the Summerfest parade, and family members of the actual Ankeny family will be in attendance. The museums will be open in the afternoon, and many other festivities will take place in Uptown and The District. It will be a great weekend!

Ankeny has grown into quite a city! Our city leaders and community businesses are observing this special year with all of us. This is an awesome attribute to the city of Ankeny. We hope you will join us in commemorating this very special year!

Yours in history,
JoAnn Adamson & Lois O'Donnell, Co-presidents

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Message From the President—*continued*

Let's take a look at some of those changes over the years:

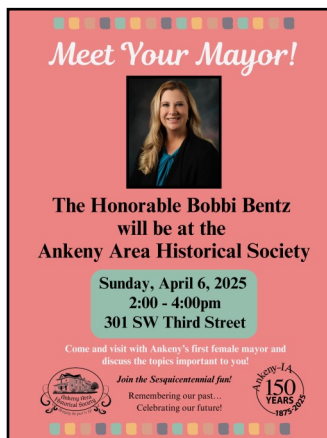
Around 1875

2025

Population	About 100 people (on farmsteads)	76,000+
Size of town/city	1 square mile (80 acres along the train tracks)	33 square miles
Number of schools	Around 10 one-room country schools, grades 1-8	18 public schools: 2 high schools 4 middle schools 11 elem. schools 1 preschool 2 parochial schools 2 colleges Numerous private preschools
Number of students	Fewer than 80	12,929
Size of Fire Dept.	3 buckets and ladders in 1907	88 members
Size of Police Dept.	1 marshal in 1903	72 officers
Number of businesses	Few – farming, train, stores	1,750 (30,000 jobs)
Median income	\$500-600/year	\$75,069/year
Median home value	\$700 – 2,500 or less	\$197,500
Number of parks/green space	0 parks (but lots of green-space)	Over 50 parks

Entries based on information from the following sites: City of Ankeny (and their City Guide), Ankeny Chamber of Commerce, Ankeny Schools, <https://ghfi.ghi-dc.org>, www.answers.com

December 2024: Holiday cookies are always delicious!



April 2025: The Honorable Mayor Bobbi Bentz spoke to us about her goals and love of Ankeny.



(Continued)

Summer Chicken Dinner

Celebrate Our City's 150th Anniversary!

The Ankeny Area Historical Society
invites you to join the Sesquicentennial Fun

on Saturday, July 12, 2025

11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Chicken Dinner at the AMP
715 W 1st Street, Ankeny

\$25 donation per person

2 pieces of delicious chicken, 2 sides, roll, cookie, water

Music

Games

Fun!

**Also: Tent Expo – come and visit the display of a variety of
organizations in the city!**

Tickets sold in advance.

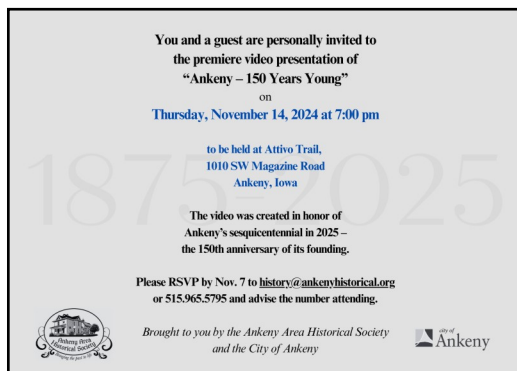
Use the QR code below or visit the Ankeny Area Historical Society at
301 SW 3rd St or their website www.ankenyhistorical.org
for tickets.



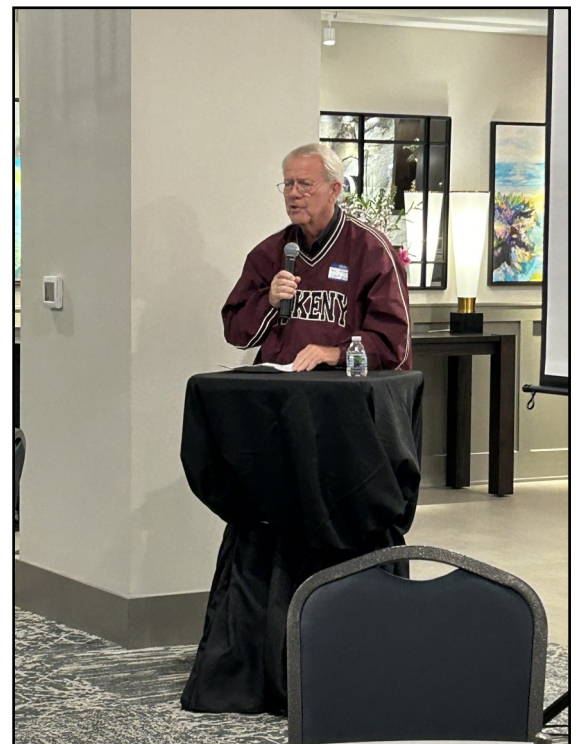
Museum Snapshots



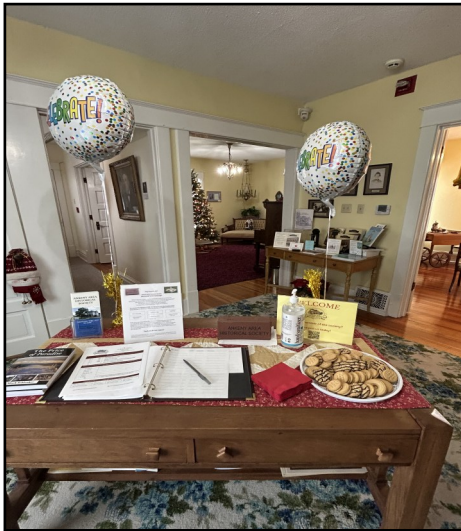
1875 - 2025 Timeline display through 2025



November 2024:
Dignitary Sesquicentennial
Kickoff at Attivo Trail in
November. Ron Sampson
addressed the crowd of city leaders
and museum board members to
present the new video about
Ankeny's history.



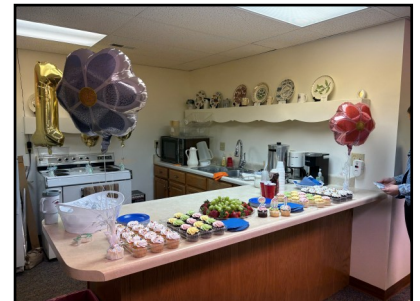
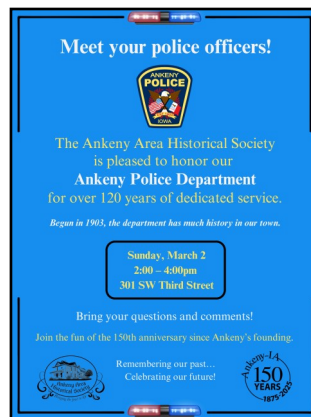
Open Houses



January 2025: Honorary Kickoff at the museum for past board members.



February: Vintage Valentine fun!



May: Over 40 folks, including Ankeny family members and speaker Karla Wright, attended the "birthday party" for J.F. Ankeny.



March: We honored the Police Dept for their 123 years of dedicated service!



More Highlights



The Model T Club from several communities enjoyed their tour of the museum.

Centennial Seniors helped with the spring cleaning...again!
Thanks, guys!



Mark Holm presented JoAnn Adamson a Polk County Betterment Grant for sidewalk installation.



Members of the Ankeny School District office toured the museum in March.
Pictured from L to R: Jon Davis, Shelley Rouse, Shannon Cole, Michelle Siefkas, Mary Arnold, Denise Miller, Renae DeVenney, and Austin Russo.



Michelle Siefkas, remembers her parents taking her to see Floppy at the Iowa State Fair when she was a young girl!

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Thank Yous

Night at the Museum!

Come to the annual Night at the Museum on
Tuesday, June 10, 2025
6:00 – 8:00 pm

See characters dressed in period costumes that represent Ankeny's history. Hear Evan Albaugh talk about the coal mines near Ankeny.



See some artifacts found by John Jensen at the Enterprise mines over the years!



Join the historical fun!
Enjoy the pizza truck food, too!
All are welcome. No admission charge.



Ankeny Area Historical Society
301 SW Third Street



Thank you to all who donated to the memorial of the following...

Norma Righi

Marilyn Hall Rhatigan

Elizabeth Uehling Benjamin

Marie Ballard

Richard Albaugh

Dave Polito

Virginia Logli

Janet Card

Bob Pitts

Dixie Nowels

Has your membership lapsed? Renew online at www.ankenymuseum.org or mail payment to
PO Box 1111, Ankeny, IA 50021.

Thank you!

Recognizing Our Generous Business and Civic Supporters

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GREATER DES MOINES

REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL

in partnership with 17 local communities



Thank you!



Thank
you

Expressing our gratitude to the
museum's generous donors for their
continued support.

General Donations:

Terry & JoAnn Adamson	Lois and Tom O'Donnell	Denise Jones	Kenneth Nelson - State Farm
Marilyn Dennler	John and Paula Wolff	Karla Kasper	Tom and Joan Quinlin
Lee and Cindy Lundstrom	Laura Benjamin	Nick Bourne For School Board	Donna Kelling

“Bringing the Past to Life”

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