

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2023



ANKENY AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY **Volume 30 Number 1**

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

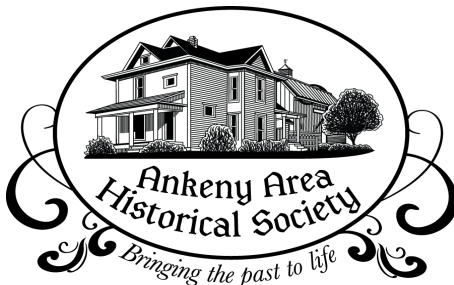
Dennis Adamson
Elaine Brazelton
Billie Broich
Jason Duke
Bob Fontana
Rob Logan
JoEllen Nervig
Joe Pitts
Jeanne Uhl

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

Greetings to each and every one of you...As Lois O'Donnell and I lead the helm at our phenomenal Ankeny Area Historical Society. You've got two old Ankeny friends, who for this year, will share in these duties.

We have a great office manager, a fantastic board of directors, and officers. We will highlight them in this newsletter.

As we share in these duties to bring you information about AAHS, at this time I would like to feature information of Ankeny's Post Offices. As the small community grew, the post office periodically changed locations.

Reaching out to long timers in old Ankeny is becoming much more difficult. We are blessed to have great resources in our library at the museum to research old newspaper articles which often contain the information for which we are searching.

This picture shows the location of the Post Office in the early 1920s (population 445) located at 311 SW Walnut Street. Later, between 1910 and 1950 the Post Office moved to 516 SW Third Street (where Carmen's Flowers is located today). The population in 1950 was 1,229. We did not have house delivery of mail; instead, each patron had a PO Box. Being a little girl, I could not always reach up high enough to dial the combination so I would have to ask for our mail at the window.



A few years later the location moved back to 311 SW Walnut Street. My family lived in the Southlawn area and I would take a shortcut to the Post Office. As I walked behind the old Neveln School building, I would take a few minutes to climb up into

(Continued)

A Message From the President—*continued*

the old fire escape a couple of times just for fun.

House to house mail delivery began in September of 1958. This is the “Must Do” list in order to receive mail delivery....

1. *All houses must have visible house numbers and a mail box or a door slot marked “mail.” No delivery will be made to houses without these.*
2. *Notify all your correspondents that house number and street are now required for delivery here.*
3. *All patrons wishing house delivery must file a written request with the postmaster immediately giving name and address or mail will be held at the post office in the lock boxes.*
4. *Delivery will not be made to any house not having all-weather walk from street to doorway.*
5. *Remember – after September 6, 1958, no address means delayed mail.*

*This piece was taken from the Ankeny Times, August 7, 1958

In 1966, a new Post Office was built at 405 SW Third Street, where today’s Ware’s Appliance Store is located. The population was 5,910. Here again, I was a young bride with my husband stationed in Korea (during the Viet Nam war era). I would go there weekly to mail a package of cookies to send to him. The Post Office remained at that location until 1990, population 18,482.

The following article was taken from the Ankeny Press Citizen in October of 1990....*“For the Ankeny Post Office, the call went out to North American Van Lines. Marcia Moraver, assistant postmaster, said she was “shocked” at how quickly the movers were able to transfer the contents of the old postal building to its new facility. The job was completed on Saturday, October 13, 1990. The actual move was an all weekend, labor intensive affair that involved 76 employee hours, not counting hours of 20 each for Postmaster Bob Doubleday and Marcia Moraver. The move involved three semi-trailer trucks and a smaller North American straight truck.”*

This is an etching of the new Post Office as it appeared in 1990.

Thirty three years later with our population now nearing 75,000 residents, this is the same location for the main Post Office, but there are many sub stations to help with the mailings of letters and packages.

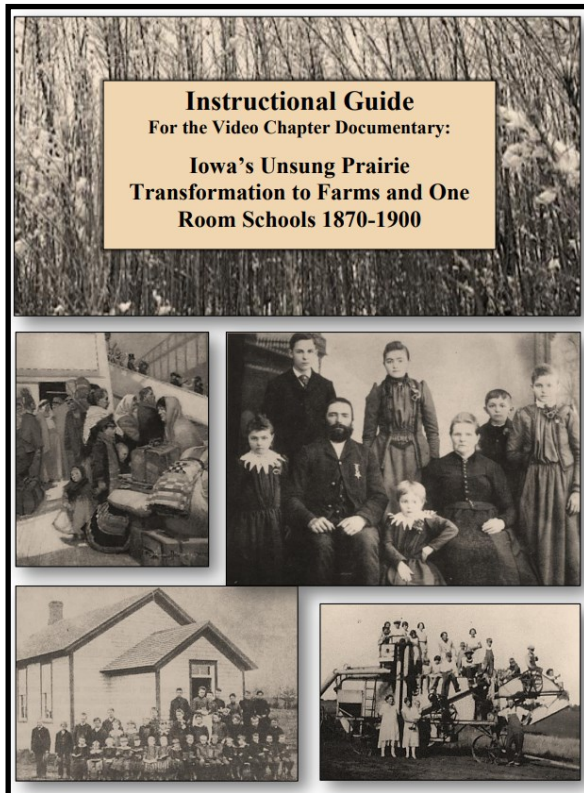
At your service,

JoAnn Adamson



IOWA'S ONE ROOM SCHOOL HISTORY

A huge “thanks” to Sandra Kessler Host for speaking to all the attendees at her presentation about “rural one-room schoolhouses of the past” on Sunday, November 6th. We learned so much about how the settlement of Iowa from 1870-1900 played such an important part in creating over 12,000 schools. We are working on adding a link on our website to information for those who want to know more. Thanks to all who came and those volunteers who helped with the Open House and bringing homemade cookies for a treat! Watch for upcoming events at the museum -where we share history and fun times!



NEW EXHIBIT COMING IN MARCH 2023

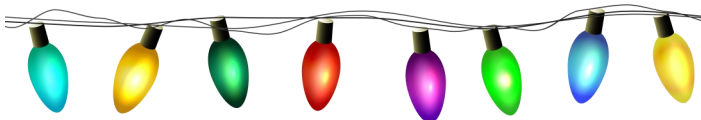
The City of Ankeny's 120th anniversary of incorporation will be featured in an exhibit soon. Did you know that the first brick Ankeny school house was built on the location of the Ankeny Area Historical Society's museums? Learn who our first mayor was and what was the first ordinance the newly elected mayor and city council voted on. Discover how even in 1903 the city had “growing pains.” Watch for more information on our website and Facebook page.



Holiday Celebrations at AAHS



Continued



Many thanks to the following organizations for the festive holiday lighting and yard displays at the museum!

UPTOWN ANKENY

TNT
LANDSCAPING & NURSERY

FROM THE ARCHIVES



This undated photograph shows the Chicago & Northwestern (C&NW) depot at SW Third and SW Cherry Streets. After purchasing the narrow-gauge line, the C&NW converted it to standard gauge, and the first passenger train came through on July 11, 1880, with a fare of 33 cents from Ankeny to Des Moines. Note the spelling of the town's name as "Ankeney." DeWalt Ankeny, the first Ankeny to come to this country, had spelled the name in various ways, including Ancony, Angene, Ankney, and Anganie. John F. Ankeny's grandfather Peter spelled it Ankeny, however, and it has been spelled that way ever since. (Editor's note: John F. Ankeny was the city's founder!) *Images of America: Ankeny*, Arcadia Publishing, Terri A. Deems with the Ankeny Area Historical Society, 2013.



**We would like to acknowledge our
appreciation for the support and grants received by:**



Thank you to all of our dedicated volunteers. Your support in time and donations allow the AAHS to share the history of Ankeny through tours, displays, programs and community events.

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~

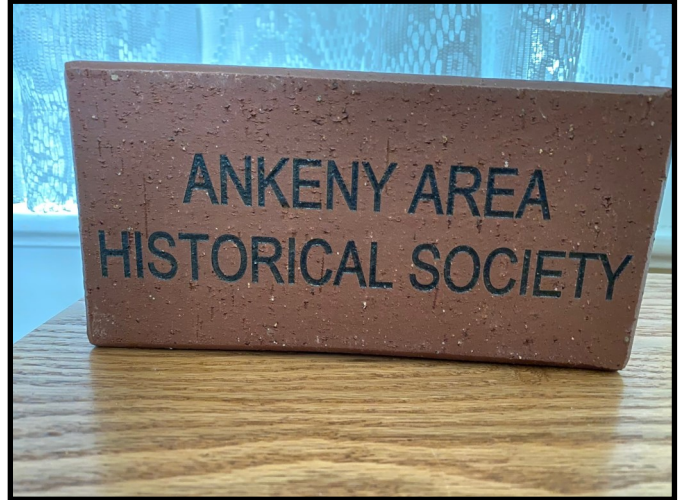
Terry & JoAnn Adamson
Steve & Carmine Boal
Jo Ann Burgess
Debra Garner
Charlie & Elizabeth Hart
Mary Jensen
Katie Kendall
David Liechty
Raymond Miller
Pauline Moon
Tom & Joan Quinlin
Dee Reynolds
Eugene Samuelson
Donna Thompson
Louise Vander Linden

Memorial monies donated in memory of the following individuals:~

Bonnie Ballard
Tina Battani

Your donation was truly appreciated.

*** Please accept our apology if your name was not included with this issue. ***



Memorial Brick Project

Personalized memorial bricks continue to be available via our website! It's a great way to honor your friends and family! If you want to order bricks, simply go to www.ankenyhistorical.org and complete the online order with the wording you wish. Or, stop by the museum to place your order when the office is open. The orders will be batched and ordered after a group has been requested. Be sure to see all the bricks around the Old School Bell when you visit the museum!

Check out our website!

You can pay for your membership online, or make a donation. As a member, you can view our newsletters, upcoming events, flyers and pictures of Ankeny through the Years. Coming up, the 18th annual ice cream social will be held on Sunday, June 25th. Homemade desserts, music, fun ... and ice cream! Bring your friends and family! Stay tuned for more details



AnkenyHistorical.org





Why Join AAHS?

Your financial support helps us fulfill our mission of inspiring in our community a sense of meaning and belonging by sharing the history and culture of the Ankeny Area.

Memberships

Individual	\$25
Family	\$50
Business	\$100

Spring Hours

First Sunday of the month (February thru April)
2pm to 4pm

By Appointment

Call 515-965-5795 or
email history@ankenyhistorical.org

