



Fall 2020 Newsletter

301 SW Third, PO Box 1111

Ankeny, IA 50021 Phone: 515-965-5795

www.ankenyhistorical.org email: history@ankenyhistorical.org

Volume 26 Number 3



A Message from the AAHS President

The energy is building! Ankeny Area Historical Society is moving forward, updating, and developing plans for a Grand Re-Opening of the museum to the public. The members of the AAHS have not allowed the pandemic associated with Covid-19 to place us in quarantine, rather just the opposite, (with appropriate safeguards and physical distancing practices in place) it has proven an opportunity to help us better serve the public in our mission "Bring the Past to Life"! While we at the museum recognize the negative impacts the covid pandemic has caused for many, we have chosen to use the museum's closure as an opportunity for growth, change, and updates which will be shared with the public in our grand-reopening hopefully in the spring!

The Board of Directors of AAHS have approved a reorganization plan for displays in the barn and the house basement! A generous donation from the John Deere Donations Committee will help fund the effort to develop both interactive and physical displays and appropriate signage to guide visitors to the museum. The Parkview bell (originally from the Central School which is now the home of AAHS) will be moving to a permanent location in the parking between the barn and house. With the help of Ankeny Community School District, Alumni, and other benefactors to AAHS, this too shall soon become a reality.

But wait, there's more! Pumpkins, pumpkins, pumpkins have been present in front of the museum as a major fundraiser for AAHS. Thanks to donated land, seed, and the strong backs of members and volunteers the AAHS was able to still treat the public with this fall tradition! Another volunteer group from John Deere, through the Benevity program, has begun actively helping keep the Museum facilities and grounds in great shape. Yard work, fresh waterproofing on decks, lawn aeration, help moving displays, etc etc, is what these volunteers have signed up for and they have tackled the tasks with gusto!!

Need more! Memberships have remained strong through the hard work of the membership committee! Finances remain in good shape due to the thoughtful work of our treasurer, office manager, and board of directors. And finally, bricks are being sold to leave a long term, lasting memory which will be used for landscaping and memorials around the AAHS property. Many of these initiatives are highlighted further in the newsletter, so please read on. So, the AAHS is only temporarily closed and it is a time for growth and rebirth that should excite our members, visitors, and benefactors in the near future.

John Stratton, President, Ankeny Area Historical Society

"Our mission is to inspire in our community a sense of meaning and belonging by sharing the history and culture of the Ankeny area."

The Year is 1920

If anyone should ask you about Ankeny, what would you say? Could you tell them anything off hand? No? Well, just cut this out and paste it in your hat or pin it to the kitchen wall or better yet put it in your head and don't forget it.

Ankeny is one mile square. It has 172 houses, 174 families, 648 population, 22 farms, 25 head of horses, 10 cows, 13 hogs, 104 families own their own home, 68 rent them. There are only five persons above 10 years of age who cannot read or write some language. There are two miles of electric light wire and poles and twenty-three street lamps supplied by the same. There is one three-fourths miles of sewer. A good fire equipment consisting of one horse cart with 500 ft. of hose and one chemical cart. A water system that can't be beat by any town three times as large consisting of one-half miles of mains, a tower 130 ft. high supplied by an electric pump from a well 580 feet deep.

There are three churches, a consolidated school with over 300 pupils, two banks, six grocery stores, one hardware, one harness and one implement shop, three restaurants, three doctors, one dentist, a good I.O.O.F. lodge and one of the best post offices, a good meat market, two garages, one blacksmith shop and one auto livery and sale barn, forty-one passenger trains, twelve freight trains every 24 hours, about four one-half miles cement sidewalk, an electric equipped grain elevator, one of the largest lumber yards in the state and last but not least, we are on one of the proposed paved roads and have lots of room for more people. Come on boosters. Spread the news.

The previous article was taken from the Ankeny Times November 10, 1960 edition. Bonnie Ballard found it in her Aunt Nellie Lewis' possessions. (AAHS Newsletter, Volume 4, Number 2, June 1998)



Check out our website! And follow us on Facebook!

Check out our webpage at Ankenyhistorical.org You can now pay for your membership online if you wish. As a member, you can now view our newsletters, upcoming events, flyers and pictures of Ankeny through the years.

The Bell

One of the local nonprofits with which the Ankeny Alumni Association partners is the Ankeny Area Historical Society. Despite the pandemic, the Historical Society has continued its work preserving local history – including in securing possession of, and planning a permanent new display location for, “The Bell”... known by many as the Parkview Bell. Given upcoming street widening and new underground infrastructure construction, the bell had to be moved from its location on West First Street in front of Parkview School. Here is some history about “The Bell”.....



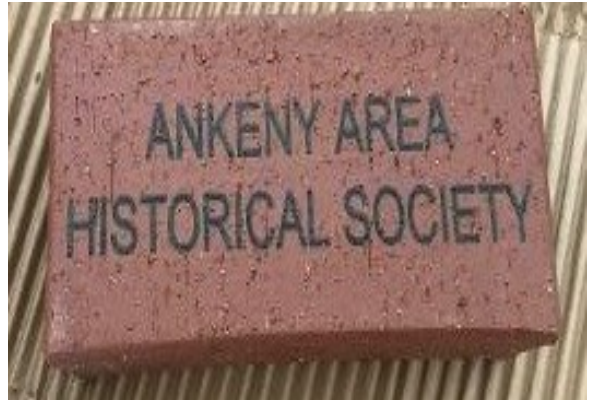
It once was the school bell that rung on the old original Ankeny School back in 1909 when the school was built. The building was later called the Junior High School, and later Central. It is hard to estimate how many Ankeny students attended that building from 1909 to 1974. The building was torn down following the Ankeny tornado in June 1974.

...A Little More History -The bell had been removed from the building way before 1971. V.W. Smith (Vernon) a graduate of the class of 1929, became the chairman to raise funds to place “The Bell” at Parkview High School in 1971 for the Ankeny Alumni Association.

The bell was moved off that location and is now in secure storage in a school facility under the watchful eye of Tim Simpkins, Ankeny Schools Director of Construction, and grad from the class of 1981. The Ankeny Area Historical Society has graciously agreed to the bell to being placed near its original site by donating a setting between the museum house and the barn on a peninsula. The Architectural firm of Imprint Architects (owned by another Ankeny alumni, Karl Chambers, class of 1986) has drawn up a design for the site of the bell. If you or your class would like to donate to “The Bell” project fund, please contact the Historical Society or mail a donation (payable to Ankeny Area Historical Society with memo line Bell Project).

Ring Around the Bell!

After the Old School Bell is moved to the museum property, the Ankeny Area Historical Society will offer **Engraved Bricks** to go around the bell. These bricks will be available for all AAHS members, area residents, companies, graduating classes and others for a \$100 donation per brick.



The bricks can be engraved with individual or family names, graduating class years, sports groups, local organizations or company names; or any other ideas you may have.

Some examples are “John D. Johnson Family” or “In Memory of John D. Johnson”. School groups may want “AHS Class of 1968” or “Ankeny HS Girls’ Basketball 1985”. Companies might want to include historical information such as “Johnson’s Horseshoes since 1972”. These are just some examples.

This is an exciting project that will allow so many in our community to support the museum and preserve a legacy in Ankeny area history! Order blanks will soon be sent to members and posted on our website. Watch for yours in the mail or online. Let’s surround our Old School Bell with memories of people and places that have shaped our history and continue to make Ankeny a special place!

New Office Manager

We welcome Mark Schulman to our AAHS family as our newest office manager. Mark and his wife, Kristie, moved to Ankeny last December from Council Bluffs to be closer to family. Kristie’s family has roots in the area that go back generations. Mark and Kristie have two children and two grandchildren. Mark has a business background which he plans to use in the office. A big “thank you” to Kathy Alleman who did an outstanding job running the office as the former office manager and in training Mark. He is in the office a couple of mornings a week. Please feel free to leave a message when you have a question or need something. Welcome to Ankeny!



Pumpkins!

Pumpkins!

Pumpkins!

Although Ankeny Area Historical Society has not been able to have our usual fundraisers this year due to COVID-19, we still had our Pumpkin Project this year. **Linda Schlenker** donated her land to plant pumpkins for the second year. **John Jensen Farms** donated and planted the seeds, and the pumpkins did the rest! **Thank you, Linda and John!**

Elaine and Jim Brazelton, and Jo Ellen Nervig have taken over the pumpkin fundraiser from **JoAnn Adamson** who was in charge for the last 7 years. They began work in late August etching business names on 40+ pumpkins. They do this when the pumpkins are small with soft skin and are a light green color. As the pumpkins grow and change to orange, the etchings become scars on the skin. They spent 8 to 10 hours etching which begins in mid-August when it is nice and hot. They had to wear long sleeves, gloves, long pants and over the ankle socks since the leaves and vines are prickly. Elaine and Jim did the biggest share of the etching and they delivered all the etched pumpkins. Donations from businesses have been very generous. If any business would like their own pumpkin next year, email AAHS. We'll remind everyone next summer of this fun project so you can make sure your favorite business doesn't get left out.

This year's pumpkin harvest was a blockbuster! AAHS members began harvesting the pumpkins in the 2nd week of September, 2-4 times per week to AAHS and ended October 15th. The fun part was traipsing through the pumpkin field, climbing over knee-high prickly pumpkin leaves and vines to cut hidden pumpkins, and then carry them to a central pile. Another group of volunteers loaded the pumpkins onto waiting truck(s) to be taken to Historical and then unloaded. Community members were able to place their donations in a very secure box thanks to **Hogan Liechty** (class of 1968). We so appreciate everyone in Ankeny and the surrounding area who support our fundraiser with their generous donations.

A huge thank you to our volunteers who make this fun project happen. It was wonderful to get so many energetic, hard-working volunteers eager to help. They include **Linda Schlenker; Jerry, Mindi and Tyson Rexroat** (Tyson earned hours for his Silver Cord); **Evan and Davis Albaugh; Tom Quinlin and family; Jim Harkin and friends; Karla Kasper; Dave Richard; Charlie Hart; Tom and Lois O'Donnell; and Gary Nervig.** (Please forgive us if we forgot someone!)

In 2021 we will need a new patch somewhere. Pumpkins can only be planted in the same field for two years, so it's time to find a new location. If anyone knows of a place and a farmer to plant seeds, let us know. Please also consider volunteering to harvest in 2021; even just for a couple of hours. It's a great way to get

Scouting or National Honor Society volunteer hours for High Schoolers, and a fun time for families to show their children how pumpkins grow. Next summer we'll send out volunteer times needed. It's fun to work together with great people; see you next year in the pumpkin patch!

Enjoy the Beauty of Autumn everyone!

Elaine and Jim Brazelton and Jo Ellen Nervig,
Co-chairmen of the 2020 Pumpkin Fundraiser



Thank You to All Our Volunteers!

Thank you to all our AAHS Volunteers who continue to generously donate their time year round to keep our museum in great shape for our visitors to enjoy! They are our unsung heroes and often don't get the recognition they deserve. It's their love of their home town and its history that keeps them volunteering!

Hopefully spring we be a busy time for us at AAHS and we look forward to seeing everyone again.!!

Business Pumpkin Donations

Thank you to all the businesses who made a donation on behalf of their pumpkin etching. We really appreciate it.

Ambrosia Donuts
Ankeny Animal Health Clinic
Ankeny Chamber of Commerce
Ankeny Dental Professionals
Ankeny Vet Clinic
Bell Bros Heating & Cooling
CJ Hair
Dave's Jewelry
Gilbert & Cook
Snyder & Associates

Iowa Financial Partners
Jamison Studios
Luke Carlson Physical Therapy
Porch Light
Sorriso Grille
Struthers Brothers
XO/XO (Formally Treasure House)
Yankee Clipper
Halbrook Excavating

* We apologize if we left you off this list.

Donations!

Shirley Muehlenthaler
Kari Bethel
Bill and Lori Walljasper

John Landon
Bryce Hildreth
Dale and JoAnn Goins

Uptown Beverage
Janet Downing

Memorials

Memorial monies were donated to Ankeny Area Historical Society in memory of the following individuals:

Beverly Fontana

Rhonda Blair Phelps

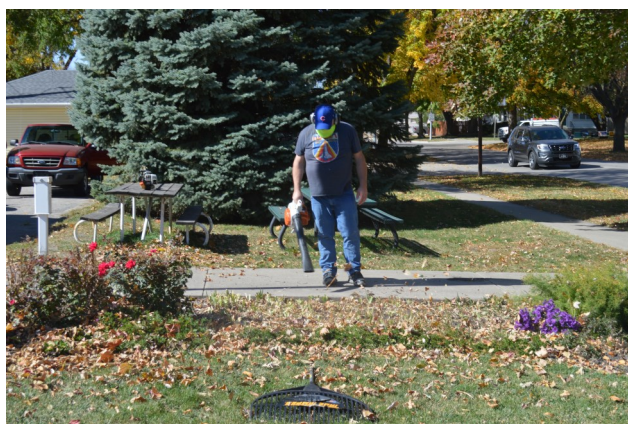
*Thank you so much for your yearly membership!
Without your yearly donation we wouldn't
Be able to keep our doors open
For future generations to enjoy and learn
About Ankeny's Amazing History!*



Volunteers from the John Deere Benevity Program, doing yard work, adding water-proofing on decks, lawn aeration and bush and tree trimming to name a few things they did while at the museum. They even took a few minutes to visit the museum.

Thank you very much for your support and all you do in our community.

AAHS



Dates for 2020

***Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic
Our Open Houses and Programs
Are On Hold***

***Please check out our website for
upcoming
dates and programs @
ankenyhistorical.org
and follow us
On Facebook!***

Mission:

***The Ankeny Area Historical Society's mission is to
inspire in our community a sense of meaning and
belonging by sharing the history and culture of the
Ankeny area.***

