

CARVER COUNTY
historical society

2018 Annual Report



 **Historic Andrew Peterson Farmstead**

© Kate Green



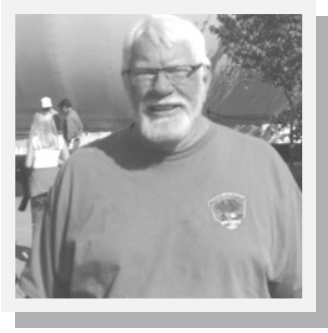
TO COLLECT, PRESERVE AND INTERPRET

THE HISTORY OF CARVER COUNTY

The Carver County Historical Society is a private, not-for-profit 501(C)3 organization serving the residents of Carver County and beyond. We are located across the street from Bayview Elementary School in downtown Waconia. We have five affiliate groups: Chaska Historical Society, Chanhassen Historical Society, Willkommen Heritage and Preservation Society of Norwood Young America, the Watertown Area Historical Society and the Waconia Heritage Association. In 2015, it celebrated its 75th anniversary. That same year, it added the Historic Andrew Peterson Farmstead to its collection.

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Another Wonderful Year

Carver County Historical Society continued during 2018 to seriously punch above its weight. Some of the most significant accomplishments include the following:

The Andrew Peterson Farmstead Property

- ◇ The North Barn whose restoration was completed in 2017 has been used as a historically significant site for several weddings and more are scheduled.
- ◇ The background work and preparation for a major Capital Fundraising Campaign has been completed and the campaign will begin in the summer of 2019.
- ◇ A Master Long Range Business plan was written and approved for the Peterson Farmstead property.

Museum Collections

- ◇ An updated and digital collections inventory is well underway covering the 3D collection held by the Historical Society. This inventory will have positive business and access ramifications and is consistent with our goal of properly preserving items of historical significance.
- ◇ The Andrew Peterson Diaries are being translated. The new translation when complete will be the property of the CCHS.

Our significant successful progress on these multiple fronts is due to a large degree to the leadership of our Executive Director, Wendy Petersen Biorn and the CCHS's talented and dedicated staff. Ms. Biorn is highly skilled, talented, and inexhaustible. Her extensive network with resource persons and organizations, her significant success at grant procurement, and her vast knowledge of the field of museum science has positioned the Carver County Historical Society very well for a burst of growth and development.

It has been my distinct privilege to serve as the Chairperson of the Board of Directors during the last three years. I also need to recognize and complement my fellow Board Members for their dedication, enthusiasm, and talents. The Society is in good hands and is poised for a fantastic future.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter E. Gustafson, Board Chair



Where Does the Time Go?

In the days before Christmas, my son and I spent a day together shopping. We ended up at Barnes and Noble. I brought his attention to a large display of record players and albums, at one end of the store. Within seconds, he corrected me and said they were not records they were vinyls. I pointed to what I have always known as a record player and stated, "I suppose you call those vinyl players." To which he replied, "Yes, they are. Mom, you have to get with the times." He continued, "I hear the sound quality is better on vinyls." I still have memories of my old records skipping over some nasty scratches. Isn't that why we got rid of vinyls in the first place?

I bought the vinyl player my son and I looked at, that day. Not counting albums, I have probably 3000 45's in my collection. I have longed to hear them come to life again, just as my grandparents did when they relived their younger years, by dancing to the music of a cylinder record. The advantage of buying the new version of the record player is the wireless speakers, and the vinyls can be downloaded onto my computer, so I can listen to all the old music, anywhere. Now, I need to explain to my son why three different speeds are needed for records, excuse me, vinyls.

The day with my son discussing the history of records took me back to Jim Faber, a Carver County writer who wrote about his memories before cars, planes and technology. He wrote a bi-weekly column for the Chaska Herald. These columns were compiled into the book, *View from a Bench in City Square*. Several other writers have written of their memories before cars and computers. These writers would look at me the same the way I looked at my son. Our gift shop is full of books that document the history of the County.

Change happens. Sometime it is a good thing, sometimes a bad, but things do change. As usual, this year we have had some changes. We lost one curator and gain another. We received a large grant to complete a 3D collections inventory and gained two collections specialists for the project. During the inventory process they have found some things—actually many things—we didn't know existed or had long ago forgotten about. We found and repatriated a Pipestone peace pipe to the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, and still have about 3000 items yet to inventory. Did I mention that this process does not include archives or photos?

We received \$160,000 from the Legacy fund and have been using it to stabilize the 1914 barn for future use as an interpretive and educational center. The capitol fundraising campaign for the farm starts in June, and we have been blessed to have a wonderful group of people willing to help direct the process.

Some things stay the same. Most notably, the hard work of a dedicated staff, Board of Directors, members, and volunteers has not changed. From all of us at the CCHS, thank you for your support. We are appreciative of your time, donations and support. We wouldn't exist without you. A special thank you to The Sando Foundation, The Jeffris Family Foundation, and the voters of Minnesota for without your support, the Legacy fund would not exist.

Here is to another wonderful year.

Wendy Petersen Biorn

Collections Inventory Project

Have you ever visited the CCHS and asked to see an item, then had to wait an extended period of time while we looked for it? If we didn't know who gave us the item, it was almost impossible to find it, even though we keep wonderful records. Recognizing the need a digital record of our collections, former curator Adam Smith wrote a Legacy grant for \$97,224 to complete the second phase of the inventory process. The first phase being the reorganizing and scanning of the photo collection. The Legacy grant included hiring two full time staff and will take a full 15 months. Phase three will be the last inventory phase and will include the archives collection. After the full process is done, we will have the ability to allow members to search the collections from their armchair, just as they do now with photos.

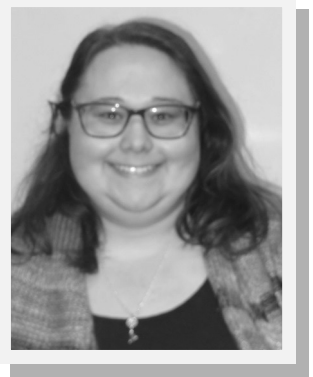
Meet our Collections Specialists

Todd Sasse



Todd Sasse joined us in July after Jeremy Swick accepted a full time collections position in Atlanta, Georgia. Todd began his history career as an intern in the CCHS Research Library. He completed his history degree at Metropolitan State University in 2017. The inventory has had its share of challenges and triumphs for Todd. The challenges include finding items in the collections that would be more appropriately kept at other locations. An example of this is a Pipestone piece pipe that had been broken into 5 pieces. Realizing the artifact was Pipestone and Native American the collection specialists contacted an archaeologist to confirm the authenticity of the pipe. Following the confirmation, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Tribal Community was contacted. They sent their representative Leonard Wabasha to the CCHS for repatriation of the pipe.

Meghan Flannery



Meghan also started her career as an intern at the CCHS. Following her graduation from St. Benedict's, she joined us as an intern to document all 42 of the carriages and sleighs that Ward Holasek left to us. She also was tasked with making a recommendation of which carriages we should keep. A rather stressful situation for a new college graduate. She did such a wonderful job that we brought her back for the collections inventory project.

Meghan states that the inventory project can be mundane at times, such as when you need to photograph a silverware collection, one piece at a time. On the opposite side, she has really enjoyed seeing so many wonderful things that have not been uncovered for many years. Meghan plans to return to college for her Masters degree in Museum Studies in the fall of 2019.

Researcher's Report



We have made great strides in several of our organizational projects by assigning “steps” to each individual project, moving each project through the system more quickly. We have relocated many of the most used research books to areas that make them more accessible to clients.

Overall, we feel that we are now passing the 40% mark for completing our corrections on the index cards and in our online newspaper index.

Our master index of family tree books, new in 2017, continues to be updated as new family trees are donated to us. Many of these books lack an index. One of our volunteers has taken on the tedious project of making an index for the family tree books that are most used by clients.

Cemetery records have been organized by three of our volunteers. They worked closely with the county to make sure that each location is current and that all locations of currently known cemeteries are documented. Abandoned, town and private, plus church cemeteries were counted as well as making note as to any possible new cemeteries that were not in the earlier listings.

In September, two of us attended the fall conference of the Swedish Genealogical Society of Minnesota. This was the 3rd year that we were invited to be present. A number of people stopped to visit our table. There was great interest in the status of the Historic Andrew Peterson Farmstead. There was also notable interest in visiting our Carver County Historical Society. All that stopped by our table seemed to have some knowledge of who we are and what we do. It made me feel proud of what our County and the Historical Society has to offer.

Also, in September and into October, we had a number of volunteer changes. Some were snow birds or were heading back to school while others found jobs with a paycheck. I felt concern about the lower number of volunteers from which I had grown used to. As it turned out, the number of regularly attending volunteers has increased from 10 in 2017 to 13 regular volunteers, plus 2 that come in for specialty work. Some volunteer only 2 hours per week, but others come in for 8 or more hours each week. We could not maintain our quality of workmanship or keep up with client research requests without our volunteers! I am most grateful for the service that each volunteer provides our Carver County Historical Society Library.

Respectively Submitted

Marilyn A. Braun

2016	2017	2018	
458	654	407	Visitation
495	1673	1020	Digital Copies
604	235	393	Look ups
1557	2562	1820	Total



Welcome 2019!

The new year arrives faster every year. It will be 11 years this coming April since I started at the CCHS.

The cleaning process always begins at the start of a new year. It includes boxing up old files and doing the insurance reports and prepping for the annual tax return.

Our membership is at 661 members with Willkommen Heritage at 48 members, Waconia Heritage Association at 7 members, Chaska Historical Society at 113 members, Watertown Area Historical Society at 17 members, and Chanhassen Historical at 155 members. CCHS members is currently 321.

Every member who has an email receives their newsletters, eblasts, alerts and renewal letters via the internet. It cuts down on postage costs. We are now using an outside mailing service to mail out the hard copy newsletters (for people who want paper) and our Annual Fund Drive letters. The Annual Fund Drive letters are mailed in November.

For years we have had problems with QuickBooks and the customer relationship management software. Each time the county ran a firewall update, the software didn't work. It became an ongoing problem for both the County and the CCHS. The problem was solved this year by taking both programs to the cloud. The member database program, SalesForce, and QuickBooks are now both cloud based.

The gift shop is now selling the new *Chaska – a Minnesota River City, Prehistory to 1950*. The Barn Quilt Coloring Book is also available. We carry history books from each city location within the County.

Linda Nelson

Welcome Waconia Heritage Association!!

A new affiliate joined us this year. Welcome Waconia Heritage Association. We now have a total of five affiliates: Waconia Heritage Association, Chaska History Center, Chanhassen Historical Society, the Watertown Area Historical Society, and the Willkommen Heritage and Preservation Society of Norwood Young America.

If you are a primary member of any of these organizations, you are automatically a member of the CCHS as well and have full benefits. Benefits include gift shop discount, access to the photo research center located on the CCHS website, 10 free lookups when renewing your membership and invitations to special events.

Curator of Education and Exhibits' Report



What a busy year it has been as usual, with many school visits and field trips to the museum.

Exhibits have been changed and rotated over the last year, with the railroad display being replaced by some recreated kitchens from the 1870s, 1920s, and 1950s. This will remain up through the end of 2019 at least- moving those stoves took some work, so the longer it's up, the better. A big thanks to the City of Waconia for lending us the manpower and rig to move the 500-800 pound stoves!

I also put up a temporary display of wedding dresses. This was accomplished after working with the county to install a motion sensor on the light bar in that section, to better protect the fragile, delicate fabrics of the dresses. Once that comes down, Wendy and I are working to get two temporary traveling exhibits through NEH (National Endowment for the Humanities). One is about Civil Rights, the other one about New York's Coney Island. A fun tie to the Coney Island here, as work moves forward with rehabilitating the island as part of Lake Waconia Regional Park. Both of the traveling exhibits will go in the area where the wedding display was, taking up some of that unused gallery space. As always, there are the rotating displays in the libraries, with 2019 including women's hats, men's hats, shoes, and fur muffs.

Our most successful programs last year were the Swedish 102 and German 101-102 language courses. Camps were also well attended, and campers who have aged out have now chosen to be camp helpers this coming summer. Pioneer camp was a returning favorite this last year. Joint camps with the County Parks and Libraries are continuing to be offered and adapted as attendance changes. The joint Kids Life camp will become Voyageur camp in 2019, moving from July to August and changing emphasis from the natural world to the history of the Voyageurs and wilderness skills.

The Andrew Peterson diary is nearing completion. Translators Mathilda Fromentine, Sharon Eklund, and Carolyn Spargo worked hard to make the translations as accurate and understandable as possible, even when dealing with difficult Swenglish. The next stage starting soon is professional editing, and then publishing of the physical book. The diary will also be available for free on our website.

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 2138.5 hours of service. Thank you Volunteers! We look forward to your service continuing in 2019! Ann Soderstrom, for the second year, is the volunteer with the highest number of donated hours with 412. All of which were spent in the Library.

Heidi Gould

Carver County Historical Society Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2018

Statement of Financial Position - unaudited

	Total
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
100 KleinBank	108,437.61
101 Building Fund	12,148.31
10100 Petty Cash	37.86
102 Museum Collection Fund	3,864.68
105 Thrivent Financial	64,379.73
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 188,868.19
Other Current Assets	
12100 Inventory Asset	130.96
Total Other Current Assets	\$ 130.96
Total Current Assets	\$ 188,868.19
Fixed Assets	
14000 Peterson Farm	258,649.99
15000 Furniture and Equipment	40,202.17
15001 ScanPro2000	10,604.34
Total 15000 Furniture and Equipment	\$ 50,806.51
15050 Exhibits	19,789.50
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 329,246.00
Other Assets	
10110 Paypal	-0.16
1021 Acquisitions	316.25
10900 Endowment Fund Investment	177,069.00
Total Other Assets	\$ 177,385.09
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 695,499.28
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
18900 Damage Deposit A. P. Farm	800.00
24100 Accrued Leave and Payroll	5,284.05
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$ 6,084.05
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 6,084.05
Total Liabilities	\$ 6,084.05
Equity	
30000 Opening Bal Equity	-3.78
31300 Perm. Restricted Net Assets	177,069.00
31500 Temp. Restricted Net Assets	12,387.43
32000 Unrestricted Net Assets	439,450.38
Net Income	60,643.16
Total Equity	\$ 689,546.19
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 695,630.24

Our Volunteers Rock!

2018 VOLUNTEER HOURS

2018 Total	2138.50
2017 Total	2071.75
2016 Total	2050.90
2015 Total:	1983.45

1-50 Hours

Adrian Braswell, *Library*
 Jackie Gifford, *Library and Gardens*
 Linda Hilk, *Library*
 Kim Johnson, *Library*
 Shane Jackson, *Library*
 Bridgette Jackson, *Library*
 Bianca Llerena, *Library*
 Elizabeth Lenzen, *Library*
 Lois Schulstad, *Library*
 Todd Sasse, *Library*

51-100 Hours

Steve Peterson, *Library*
 Delora Wallner, *Library*
 Gladys Wolter, *Library*

101-199 Hours

Judy Aarness, *Library*
 Lowell Dammann, *Library*
 Orville Mackenthun, *Library*
 Laurel Means, *Library*
 Mary Loehrs, *Library*
 Cindy Shatek, *Library*

200+ Hours

Elaine Wischnack, *Library*
 Ann Soderstrom, *Library*
 Mary Lou Teubert, *Library*

Volunteer of the Year

Ann Soderstrom, 412 Hours

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE 2018

Fair Volunteers

Cindy Shatek	Rick Gramith
Ron Holtmeier	Arne Braun
Dan Rhodes	Mike Coleman
Helen Wicklaus	Marlene Gnan
All Bongard	Laurel Means
Bianca Llerena	Kevin Stender
Elizabeth Lenzen	Julie Stender
Gabriela Llerena	Mark Willems
Mary Happ	JJ Norman
Barbara H.	Dolly Goetz
Paul Melchert	Molly Steinhagen
Joan Gorman	Burt Johnson
Jim Steinhagen	Nancy Johnson
Ann Soderstrom	Rita Gindt
Judy Aarness	Alyssa Braun
Brayden Braun	Kim Johnson
Linda Nelson	Mike Fahey

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE 2018

BOARD of DIRECTORS

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

By the Numbers

From the Collection

During 2018, Collection Specialists Todd Sasse and Meghan Flannery have worked diligently to record the 3D items in our collection. The below items are just a sampling of the items found in the collection. Heidi Gould has been showcasing an item from the collections each month on our Facebook page.



At left: Elegant and elaborate Victorian wedding dress worn by two brides. First by Vendina "Fannie" Trocke Jones in 1908 and then by Cora Herrmann Dixon in 1937.

Below: Circa 1804 Swedish Daybed used by John F. Hillstrom from West Union, Minnesota.

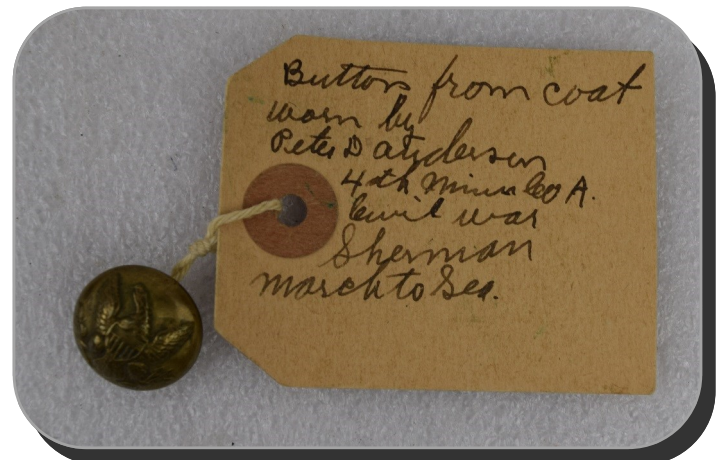


Clockwise from top left:

--Leather moccasin boot circa 1859 that belonged to Andrew Peterson.

--Rattle Snake Rattle from an Ojibwe woman on the Pine Point Reservation near Pondsford, Minnesota. Considered a sacred medicine object.

--U.S. military uniform button. Worn by Peter D. Anderson who served from 1864-1865 in Company A of the 4th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment. He participated in Sherman's March to the Sea.





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1/15/19/WPB