

# Akron Area Museum



Sophie Martinac ~ Tea Party

Nancy Lilly ~ Tea Party

## The Time Capsule

Volume 2, Number 2

Fall/Winter 2011

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# *-The Time Capsule-*

Publication of the  
**Akron Area Museum**  
601 Main Street - P.O. Box 252  
Akron, Plymouth County, Iowa 51001-0252  
akronareamuseum@gmail.com

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Akron Area Museum meets on the  
1<sup>st</sup> Monday each month at 7:00 p.m. in the  
Museum Community Room

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Akron Area Museum Board of Directors**

### **Officers**

Rodney Anderson ~ President  
Angela Price ~ Vice-President  
Denise Loutsch-Beitelspacher ~ Treasurer  
Brenda Groon ~ Secretary

### **Board Members**

Shirley Gerling  
Dee Hilliker  
Julie Ann Madden

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Museum Hours**

Special Events  
Available upon appointment  
Contact: Brenda Groon ~ 712-568-2400

### **Comments or Suggestions Contact:**

#### **The Time Capsule Editor**

**Rodney Anderson**

47904 SD Highway 48

Akron, Iowa 51001

Phone: 605-565-3168

Email: sdrodanderson@gmail.com

Or akronareamusem@gmail.com

# *Message from the President*

It's been a busy summer for all of us at the museum, and I want to just provide a summary of all of the things that we had going on. You will find more in-depth articles on other pages in this letter. For a complete summary of the minutes, please visit [www.akronia.org](http://www.akronia.org) and click on the museum link under the recreation tab.

Our front page features two groups of Tea Parties that were hosted at the museum; I hope you enjoy the article from "Sassy Girls to Sassy Ladies."

An anonymous donation for the purchase of 30 new black chrome framed stackable chairs with a cart was made earlier this year. These will be used primarily in the community room and for other functions at the museum. They fit in very well with the scheme of artifacts displayed in the museum. A most sincere thank you goes to this generous donor.

The replacement of the Victorian porch has been underway and is near completion. (Further details in this letter)

We had a tree branch down from the maple tree in the west yard and the City workers came and cleaned it up and trimmed other trees which could have soon become a problem in the future. Thanks to the City of Akron guys for cleaning this up for us.

The museum board hosted the August 24<sup>th</sup> farmers market in the city park. This fund raiser after expenses brought in a total of \$532.72. Thank you to those who supported us.

Two TV's with DVD players have been purchased, installed and are available for use at the museum. These were purchased with funds made available from the Florence Peterson/Akron Community Grant foundation. A 50 and 32 inch set with wall brackets were purchased and installed with the \$1,200 awarded for this project.

At our September 6<sup>th</sup> board meeting a resignation letter was received and accepted from Christina Lewison, secretary. Brenda Groon accepted the position of secretary and Rodney Anderson was appointed as President. This left the office with an opening for a Vice President; Angela Price was appointed to that position at the November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Enjoy the Letter

Rodney Anderson ~ President & Editor

## *Life Time Members*

City of Akron  
Carlsen Funeral Home  
John & Mary Lucken  
Angela & Roger Price  
Carol Schlotfeld  
Joyce Thorson

Deanna & Larry Boe  
Evelyn Claesson  
Sam & Nadine Philips  
Jim & Helen Raymond  
Marianne Siefer  
Ramona Vanderhelm

## *Those We Remember*

Blanche Boetger  
Roberta Dirks  
Douglas Lilly

Arden & Dorothy Brown  
Harold Higman, Sr.  
Daryl & Julia Taylor

## *Memberships Paid Since July 1, 2011*

Akron Mercy Medical  
Kathleen Bjorklund  
Susan Brown  
John & Sue Crosby  
Gerald & Marge Dykstra  
Charles & Patricia Eskra  
Sharon Frerichs  
Shirley Gerling  
Brenda Groon  
Harold, Jr. & Sue Higman  
Charlene Hodnefield  
Mabel Huldeen  
Nancy Lilly  
LaVonne Maynard  
Dorothy Olson  
Mic Ruhland  
Ron & Karen Schroeder  
Karen Taylor-Mortenson  
Jim Welch  
Westfield Coffee Cup Club  
Curt & Carla Winquist

Rodney Anderson  
Beverly Brodie  
Carol Brown  
Judith Dirks  
Patti Ericson  
Jeannie Frerichs  
Phyllis Frisk  
Josh & Lacy Groon  
Kay Henrich  
Dee Hilliker  
Mike Hohenstein  
Carol Larson  
Denise Loutsch/Beitelspacher  
Nancy Nystrup  
Dick & Rosemary Root  
Nick & Allison Schoenfelder  
Security National Bank  
Robert & Dee Watson  
LaNay & Steve Welch  
Meriele Wilmot  
Jane & Tom Zebus

*Thank you to all that have given!*

# *From Sassy Girls to Sassy Ladies*

On the front page you will see two sets of sassy girls from our area. The following will describe how the museum educated these two sets of ladies, from young to old, during two different high tea parties.

The first gathering was a group of adult women that set the mood with a high tea party that was held on August 15. This party was held in memory of Nancy Lilly's late husband Douglas "Doug" Dean Lilly, born May 4, 1940, died March 27, 2011. A donation in his memory was made by Nancy.

In the second picture on the front page from back, left to right are; ***Kay Rosacker of Webb, Iowa; Nancy Lilly of Westfield; Sue Crosley of Lake Park, Iowa; Peggy Lilly of Westfield; Kathy Bjorklund of Maple Grove, Minn.; Marilyn Robinson of Le Mars; Theresa Ferguson and Gayle Lilly both of Westfield.*** The ladies dressed in Victorian hats from the special tea party wardrobe collection.

A light lunch, served by museum hosts Brenda Groon and Rodney Anderson, of chicken with cheese croissants, grapes, cumber slices, Colby cheese along with lemonade, or raspberry and cold teas, followed by an ice cream and strawberry dessert.

An in-depth guided tour was given of the entire mansion along with a special display of Westfield history.

The second high tea gathering was a group of young girls attending the seventh birthday party of Sophie Martinac. In the first picture on the front page from back, left to right are; ***Holey Westergard, Emma Martinac, Presley Marnach, Haden Ford, Lilly Ferguson, Holly Netley, Sophie Martinac, the birthday girl, Natalie Olson, Addison Westergard, Loren Sadoff, Hanna Swartz, Riley Blake and Sidney Parks.***

When Sophie's guest's arrived they were escorted upstairs to dress for the occasion. They tried on various hats, gloves and boas. After having found their attire they met in the parlor for the high tea set at three child-size tables.

The girls enjoyed entertainment from the Victorian era with music from the hand-cranked Victrola and viewing pictures through the stereoscope. Then an in-depth tour of the museum was given with the doll house being a big hit.

Birthday cake was served following the tour and birthday gifts were opened and gift bags were presented to each of Sophie's guests.

Everyone had a good time at both parties, reminiscing about what it would be like to live in the early 1900s Victorian era.

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To bring a healthy color to the face draw on a boot a couple sizes too small for your foot. ~ *The Sentinel; Le Mars, Iowa; Tuesday, March 19, 1889*



LaNay Welch was the winner of the free Tea Party for answering the question: “Why are Barns painted Red?” Pictured from left to right with granddaughters are; Kiley Schoen; LaNay Welch holding Harper Rae Welch; Kerri Welch, daughter-in-law; Madison Jean Schoen held by daughter Jenny Schoen; in front; Hannah Welch. See page 9 for full story.



On October 3 Shirley Gerling from New Horizon’s UCC Church presented Rodney Anderson of the Akron Area Museum with a check worth 10% or the proceeds that they raised at their funnel cake fund raiser at the Scarecrow Festival held in the Akron Park in September. The money donated will go towards the porch replacement fund.

If you would like to donate to the museum, please see our donation form on page 11

**Our membership fee has been lowered:** We have lowered the yearly family membership from \$50 per couple to only \$40.

**Our community room rental has been lowered:** We have lowered or community room rental from \$100 per event to only \$50.

**We are available for special events:** Call us for details on any special events that you would like to have hosted at the museum. We can cater to your needs, everything from tea parties, graduations, weddings anything that you may need.

*From Destruction to Construction*  
*Completion of the Porch project is Finished*



Left: Destruction phase is started. Right: Construction phase is under way.



Above: The Completion of the Victorian porch project.  
**See page 8 for full story.**

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Ladies desiring the removal of superfluous hairs from their faces should go to a barber and get shaved. ~ *Le Mars Sentinel* March 19, 1889

## *Completion of the Porch project is Finished*

The museum Victorian porch project has been completed, with just a few minor touch ups of paint that will need to wait for completion in the spring.

Back in September of 2010 a grant was applied for and approved in the amount of \$6,709.73 to replace the Victorian porch on the Akron Area Museum. When the grant was written very little was known of what would underlay the old floor boards of the porch. Upon visual inspection, it did not look all that bad.

The hot summer that we had delayed the process of getting the project started. An extension had to be requested from the Community Foundation of Greater Plymouth County the grantor. The extension was made until June 30, 2012.

Once the destruction process began it was soon discovered that we were going to need much more money. At this time it was found that very little lied underneath for a foundation of the porch at the museum. Most of all the heavy support beams under the porch were only supported by a few small boards set on top of a few bricks or rocks set on top of the ground. It was previously decided to go with a geo-deck replacement. That is more expensive than a wood replacement, but it has a lower maintenance cost over time.

A plea was put out to the members and the community to help the museum in funding to finish this much needed project. The City of Akron also stepped up to the plate and offered to match all funds that we raised from September 13, 2011 until the close of our fiscal year on June 30, 2012 -up to \$5,000. All money that we raise will be worth double the amount that is given within that time frame.

Barry Klave was hired as our general contractor to complete the porch construction process. Besides Barry and his crew, we relied on volunteer labor whenever possible. Those who stepped up to the plate to help with many phases of the construction were: board members, Rodney Anderson, Brenda Groon, Denise Loutsch-Beitelspacher; community members, Albert Beeck and Dr. Warren Thompson.

A sincere thank you goes to all of the people that contributed to this project in any way. It is truly appreciated.

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Sufferers from cold feet have been known to obtain relief by putting them near the stove. ~ *The Sentinel; Le Mars, Iowa; Tuesday, March 19, 1889*

## *“Why are Barns painted red?” Winners*

In the last issue the question was asked “Why are Barns painted red?” There were only two people who responded with the correct answer. Those answering correctly were Amy Schoenfelder and LaNay Welch.

LaNay and Steve Welch along with a group of guests attended a high tea party on June 24 at the museum as a reward for answering the question correctly. Amy Schoenfelder was unable to attend.

The following lengthy description gives you the answer as to “Why are Barns painted red?”

Modern barns are painted red only out of nostalgia and tradition. No other reason exists now, but up until 100 years ago, there were real and practical reasons for painting barns red. The red that we associate with barns today is not a bright red. It is more of a dark, burnt-orange color. Red Barns began several hundred years ago, when farmers in Europe would seal their barns from the elements with linseed oil. This kept water from rotting the wood. Linseed oil is naturally a tan or tawny color. Farmers began to refine the oil by mixing in other substances. Lime and milk were added to extend the life of the paint and allow it to dry quickly. Eventually, farmers started adding another component to their barn paint – ferrous oxide, more commonly known as rust. Rust was a naturally fungicide that killed molds and moss that liked to grow on barns and cause the wood to decay. It is also claimed that some farmers also added blood to their paint, but this was not very widespread.

As Europeans began to settle in America, they brought their traditional barn paint recipe with them. By the late 1800s, chemical pigments were commonly being added to commercial paint. Some of these pigments were very expensive. At the time, red was among the least expensive paint, so farmers had a reason to carry on the tradition. Later, white became cheaper, and some farmers, especially dairy farmers, liked the purity of white, so white barns also came into fashion. Today, paint is all about the same price, so no extenuating factors exist for painting barns either red or white, except to carry on the tradition.

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Persons afflicted with aching teeth should visit a dentist and obtain a new set.

~ *The Sentinel*; Le Mars, Iowa; Tuesday, March 19, 1889

## *501 (c) (3) Application is Approved*

The application for the 501 (c) (3) has finally been approved for the Akron Area Museum. This allows the museum to operate on its own separate from the City of Akron without approval of the City and we are able to operate on our own for such things as grant requests and money received.

This process was started several years ago and was never completed. Through the efforts of Rodney Anderson and our lawyer Mat Trotzig they poured for hours over several years' worth of documents to get this status approved. The effective date of exemption approved by the IRS is August 14, 2007.

The museum is now able to accept tax deductible gifts under section 170 of the IRS Internal Revenue Code. We are classified as a public charity under the name of Akron Historical Society.

If you have any questions, please contact a board member.

## *TV Grant is Completed*

A grant was applied for through the Akron Community Foundation of Siouxland (Florence Peterson fund) for TV/DVD combos at the museum. The purpose of this project is to provide members of the community, who are not able to get to the areas of the museum that are not handicap accessible, to be able to enjoy the displays in these areas. These displays will have recorded versions of the history of the museum and Akron recorded on DVD's for patrons to enjoy.

A 50" Zenith flat panel TV and DVD player was installed in the community room and a 32" RCA TV/DVD combo was installed in the parlor of the museum.

Thank you to the Akron Community Foundation of Siouxland for the approval of this grant. This project will be something that we will be able to continually work on, adding information to create a more detailed history of our area.

## *Our Next Tea Party Contest*

If you answer the following question correct you will win a free high noon Tea Party hosted by the Akron Area Museum. "What was Akron High Schools first annual name?" Contact us at [akronareamuseum@gmail.com](mailto:akronareamuseum@gmail.com) or call 568-2400 or 565-3168 if you feel you have the correct answer.

## A message from one of our donor's

I believe in preserving memories from the past and encourage my fellow Akron citizens to help in any way the efforts of the Akron Area Museum. This is truly a wonderful cause to throw your support behind. I am thankful for those who serve on its board and donate freely SO many hours of labor in making it the beautiful museum it is today. Truly, it is a labor of love by each one of them. I am proud to be from Akron! What a great community it is.....lets continue to show our pride and be supportive whenever and in whatever means we can. Together we can continue to make Akron the best kept secret in NW Iowa!!!

M. Siefer

### 2011 Membership Form

- Single Membership \$25.00
- Couple Membership \$40.00
- Life Time Membership \$500.00
- Gift Membership for someone else
- Donation for Day to Day Expenses
- Memorial Donation

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of/for \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:  
Akron Area Museum  
P.O. Box 252  
Akron Iowa 51001  
Tax ID# 20-1563299



This year square straw bales from the barn of the late Stanley Anderson west of Akron were used to enhance the museum's nativity scene. The straw was more than likely baled sometime before Mr. Anderson held his farm auction in 1988 when he sold his farm equipment after retiring in 1984. Today most people harvest large round bales, so you could say that the bales added some historic attention to the display this year.

## *Recent Acquisitions*

Arlin Beeck	Photo of Willer farm
Teresa Book	Old school books
Doris Brundeen	Advertisement from First National Bank, booklet from "The Farmers Friends" estimated year 1930
Evelyn Claesson	1948 photo Plymouth County Supervisors, Christmas hanging by Evelyn, 6 albums of valentines from Tena Popken (Eveyn's grandmother) wedding photo of Tena & Herman Popken.
Bud Higman Estate	Numerous items
Mable Huldeen	300 photos and artifacts of early Akron
Helen Johnson	Effanbee doll and carriage
Vera Kapfer	Don Kapfer biography and army memorabilia
Mary Lucken	5 piece silver service
Lois Muck	1946-class history, ring & Norka,

Thank you to all who have donated items.

