



Summer 2019 Newsletter

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Back to School...1850 to 2019

Article taken from Wikipedia

History of Ankeny Schools

The first school in Ankeny was a log cabin, built in 1850, twenty years before Crocker Township was organized as a civil township. Ankeny's first school was located approximately 1 mile south of town where the east entrance of the Iowa State Experimental farm joined Highway 69. This school was later relocated on the east side of Ankeny Boulevard, just south of First Street. Records show that Mr. A.H. Feigenbaum was one of the early teachers, serving in one of the one-room schools about 1880. The early roster includes other names such as Hattie Cornwall, a Miss Benedict, Miss Maude Kennedy, and Mrs. John Wagner as a substitute.

The district's first official "graduating class" was the five-person class of 1914. Consolidation came to Ankeny in 1919, at which time the oldest part of the Neveln building was built. Several country school houses were moved to the grounds to accommodate the increased enrollment.

There was no further new construction until 1952 when the original part of the Parkview building was constructed. In 1957, the west wing was added and in 1964 an east wing was completed. In 1964, Parkview became Ankeny High School. Later, the facility was repurposed and renamed as "Parkview Middle School."

Northwest Elementary on West 1st Street was the first building to open after the original Parkview building. It was completed in 1962. Additional buildings include (in order of opening):

- East Elementary—built in 1963
- Southeast Elementary—opened in 1969
- Terrace Elementary—opened in 1972
- Northview Middle School—originally opened as "Ankeny High School" in two phases (1973 & 1975)
- Westwood Elementary—opened in 1989
- Northeast Elementary—opened in 1992
- Prairie Ridge Middle School—originally opened as "Northview Middle School" in 1995
- Crocker Elementary—opened in 2004
- Ashland Ridge Elementary—opened in 2008
- Ankeny High School—opened in 2011
- Southview Middle School—opened in 2011

History of Ankeny Schools—continued

- Prairie Trail Elementary School—opened in 2012
- Ankeny Centennial High School—opened in 2013
- Rock Creek Elementary—opened in 2014

In 2009, construction began on the new Ankeny High School in Prairie Trail, and construction on the new Ankeny Centennial High School began with a groundbreaking ceremony on September 1, 2010. In August 2011, the new Ankeny High School opened, along with Phase I of Southview Middle School. At this time, the previous high school became a middle school for 8th and 9th grades. In 2011, the district also experienced its first division on the way to two secondary school systems, by moving to two 6th-7th grade middle schools: Prairie Ridge Middle for the north feeder system and Parkview Middle School for the south feeder system. In 2013-2014 the district opened Ankeny Centennial High School, marking the first time in four decades in which a school district in Iowa expanded to two high schools. The name, “Ankeny Centennial High School” is in honor of 100 years of graduating classes in Ankeny Community Schools. The Class of 2013 was the 100th graduating class, graduating just three months prior to the opening of the school.

At the same time, East Elementary School was expanded to accommodate three sections of students at each grade level (K-5).

Expansion

Ankeny Schools has been experiencing a period of rapid enrollment growth, with 300+ new students joining the school district each year. The Ankeny School district opened its second high school 2013-2014 and now operated two, fully functioning secondary school systems.

Country Schools in Iowa

*Article taken from AAHS Newsletter
September 1999*

Bill Sherman, a public relations specialist with the Iowa Education Association, has spent countless hours compiling historical information on Iowa’s one-room country schools for the book title “Iowa’s Country Schools: Landmarks in Learning.”

One room schoolhouses “had an important role in establishing our educational values,” Sherman said. “At one time there was a school roughly within any two-mile walking distance in the state, so everyone could have an opportunity for education.”

- Iowa had the most country schools of any state, with a high of 12,623 in 1901.
- About 45 country schools in Iowa are still functional, compared to a national high of 133 in Nebraska. But only six are still public schools; the rest are privately operated and often have specific religious affiliations.
- Polk County has 14 one-room schools including museum schools at the Iowa State Fairground and the newly relocated Pleasant Corners School near Jordan Creek Elementary in West Des Moines.
- Two that exist in the Ankeny area include the Nagle and Greenwood Schools. Nagle School is located directly south of Ankeny on Oralabor Road (NW 70th Ave.) and approximately one-fourth mile west of State Street. *(This school had been used as facilities to operate a trucking company, but now sits vacant—updated 2019 from original article.)*
- Greenwood School was two miles south and two miles east of Ankeny, just one-fourth mile north of NE 70th Ave. on NE 29th Street. It was at the SW corner of the bridge crossing the Four-Mile Creek. *(This former school had been made into a home, but fire destroyed the building several years ago—updated 2019 from original article.)*

Country Schools in Iowa—continued

One-Room Country Schools located in the Ankeny Area:

- Franklin School—Crocker Township
- Union School—Crocker Township
- Oralabor District—Crocker Township
- Nagle School—Crocker Township
- Rock Creek—Crocker Township
- Greenwood School—Douglas Township
- Lincoln School—Lincoln Township (one mile north of Sexauer School at Elkhart Corner)
- Randolph School—Douglas Township (two miles east of Ankeny)
- Riley School—Douglas Township (northeast of Ankeny)

Notes from one-room school attendees—

Bessie Lundstrom Carlson regarding Nagle School where her children attended.

“The PTA organized in 1930 did much to help. Dues were 15 cents per year at first. They raised funds to buy a piano in the early years. In later years they bought many school supplies such as a bookcase, books, a steel cabinet, an electric clock, etc. And they were instrumental in getting a recitation table and chair, a sink and water into the north room.”

Glen Cornwell regarding Randolph School.

“The land originally was owned by Ellis Randolph. The school closed about 1920 and the land went back to the owner. The schoolhouse was moved to Ankeny to be rebuilt as a residence. Both of my parents attended the Randolph School along with ten of my aunts and uncles.”

Dorothy Dippold Wyant regarding Union School.

“Union School was a one-room school with an entryway that was between two coatrooms, one for boys and one for girls. On a shelf in the coatroom was a large stoneware water cooler and a tin cup for drinking. In the other coatroom was a kerosene stove that was used for heating water, soup or making coffee when PTA meetings were held. The schoolroom was heated by a coal furnace that had a large enclosure around it to circulate air. The teacher built the fire and students carried in the coal and sometimes carried out the ashes.”

Bessie Lundstrom Carlson regarding Rock Creek School where she attended.

“The schoolhouse was a big frame building with a ceiling about 15 or 20 feet high. It faced west and had five or six windows on the south. The windows were six or eight feet high. In the southwest corner there were nails along the wall to hang our coats on and a shelf for the water bucket and to set the dinner buckets on. Chalk and crayons were in short supply and used down to the last bit. The east wall had the blackboard on it. There was lots of arithmetic and spelling done on it, as well as language. The older kids did lots more than I did since I was the youngest in school. We used slates, too. We little ones got to draw on the board sometimes. What a thrill to get a brand new piece long enough to hold onto. It came in a wooden box probably about 100 sticks to a box. I suppose it was to last all year. Also, if we were lucky enough to have a box of crayolas, they were used to the last quarter inch. There were four colors to the box: red, yellow, blue and black. We learned to make different colors without the help of a color chart. Paints came in four colors, and how lucky we were to ever get a box of paints!

Since we lived close to the schoolhouse, the teacher boarded with us. Someone would bring her out on Sunday evening and she stayed till Friday. Our house had three bedrooms, so she shared with we three girls.”

We Are RAISING THE ROOF!

ANKENY AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY - RAISING FUNDS FOR THE ROOF!

Yes, our House Museum is in need of a new roof! So, we are **"Raising Funds For The Roof!"** In an effort to pick a roofing material that will last a longer life than the typical asphalt shingles on the roof now, we have obtained several estimates for a metal roof to compliment our barn museum roof with a longer life span of 40 years. So, we are beginning a capital campaign to raise money for the roof and complete our project for future generations to enjoy.



Please consider donating to our worthy cause.

We accept all monetary donations and
you will be helping to maintain
Ankeny Historical Society House Museum
for future generations!

Thank you for supporting the Ankeny Area Historical Society.

We are a non-profit—501(c)(3) organization.

Ankeny Area Historical Society

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Memorials

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

Lorraine Thorson Gerald Ballard Al Hansen Lucille Susic

Donations

Cyndy Lammert Class of 1967 Mary Oliver Krisan Shay
Julie Shay Kari Bethel Bobbi Bentz
Terry & JoAnn Adamson Ankeny Womens Club

Raise the Roof Donations

Bob & Kathy Bachman Lois O'Donnell Shary Albaugh Karla Kasper
Jim & Kathy Alleman Jill Price

Thank you so much for your memorials and donations!

New Members—Welcome!

Mike & Sharon Conrad Dennis Den Adel Jim Nervig Larry Thorson
Chuck & Kay Triplett

Thank You...Thank You!

Thank You to Polk County Community Betterment Grant and Donations from the Lammert family and Class of 1967 and an excellent job by McCarthy Construction, we now have a refurbished handicapped ramp made with composite materials which will serve us for the next 40+ years!



Night at the Museum Murder Mystery



Murder Mystery Cast of Characters

We had a great time helping the visitor detectives find out who the murderer was and enjoyed giving our first time visitors a glimpse into Ankeny's amazing history!



*Polk County Sheriff
And Retired Deputy*

Our Annual Ice Cream Social We Honored the 100th Anniversary of Albaugh/McGovern Post #42



Dates for 2019

Visit our Open Houses every Sunday from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend from 2:00pm—4:00pm!

**September 1—2:00pm—4:00pm Open House
150 Years of Quilts**

October—Pumpkins...Pumpkins at the House for Sale!

October 6—2:00pm—4:00pm Open House

November 3—2:00pm—4:00pm Open House

November 4—December 14—Another Vintage

Christmas—Twelve Days of Christmas—Open Mondays,

Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays—9:00am-3:00pm

December 7—Cookie Walk

**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.



**Our House Museum is Open
Year Round on Tuesdays and Thursdays
9:00am-3:00pm!**

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