



# ORPHANAGE MUSEUM

by Anne Peterson, Museum Manager

## Dusty Files, Clear Stories: Organizing History's Treasures



Elizabeth Anselmo

Maxine Ronglien saved everything museum-related—a true gift for preserving history! One long-standing goal has been to organize the many file cabinets of records, making them easier to search. Since November, SCHS board members Elizabeth Anselmo and Nancy Vaillancourt have joyfully taken on this task. Who better than two genealogy gurus with a passion for organization and State School history? Thanks to their dedicated efforts, we've made impressive strides—even though we recognize there's still work to be done.

In the process, we've uncovered even more stories, photos, and artifacts to share with our visitors. We are also fortunate to have high-quality footage filmed in 2012 through a Minnesota Historical Society grant. With advancements in technology, we hope to give visitors the opportunity to see and hear firsthand memories of former State Schoolers. As time moves forward and the number of living State Schoolers naturally declines, these recordings become even more invaluable. With 10,635 children passing through its doors, there are countless State School stories to be told.



Nancy Vaillancourt

### Help Us Preserve History

Our goal is to create a file for each child, so any information you can provide would be invaluable. Do you have stories or artifacts that could help complete our records? We'd love to hear from you! Email us at [museum@owatonna.gov](mailto:museum@owatonna.gov) to discuss how you may contribute. We can make copies of photos/documents and return the originals to you. Thank you for helping us keep history alive!

### SCHS Non-Resident Membership - \$15

If you received this newsletter and haven't yet become an SCHS member, see the Page 2 article about the 2025 Membership Drive. Non-residents of Steele County membership fee is \$15.

### 2025 Fall Celebration - September 13

Mark your calendars! Hope you can join us.



### Word of Deceased State Schoolers

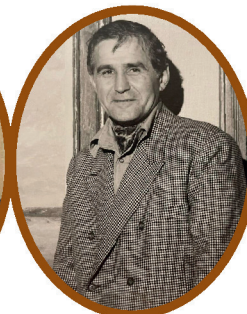
Richard "Dick" Iacono - 95

Anthony "Tony" Jackovich - 101

Vivian Swan Manthe - 96



Dick



Tony



Vivian

We extend our heartfelt sympathies to the families of Dick, Tony, and Vivian. As members of the last generation of children who experienced State School life (1886-1945), they exemplified resilience, and we honor their strength and legacy.

# MEMORIALS/LEGACY FUNDS/DONATIONS

Given by	In Memory of	Given by	In Memory of	Given by	In Memory of
Berniece Schroht	Lorraine Ahrens	Ken & Rosalyn Henrickson	Jon Jensen	Kathy & John Ihlenfeldt	Jon Jensen
Barbara Schmidt		Kathleen Smith		Loyal & Alayna Mensink	
Gerald Lewison		Chad & Karen Lange		Jerry Ganfield	
Barbara Schmidt	Ed Brown	Norman & Melda Bang		Shari & John Stroschein	
Patty Jessop		Michael & Stephanie Kingland		Mark Moonan Walbran	
Berniece Schroht	Marian Dalland	Greg & Bonnie Krueger		Larry & Joan Pierce	
Jim & Jo Hartle	Jerry Deetz	Lonna Lysne		Doug & Connie Ruth	
Bill & Jody Hartle	Robert Eilers	Jerry & Janet Besser		Doug & Tammy Johnson	
Jerry Ganfield	Steve Hunt	Gerald Lewison		Gaylene Stekelberg	
MaryAnne & Matt Higgins		Ron & Dianne Klancher		Wendy Kabaker	
Anne Peterson	Jon Jensen	Todd & Lori Buegler		MaryAnne Higgins	Kathleen Lee
Brad & Heidi Meier		Jim & Sharon Klein		Kathy & John Ihlenfeldt	Shirley Malo
Annette Duncan		Ray Stawarz		Darwin & Barb Kasper	Robert Matejcek
Patrick & Helen Mrozek		Peter Sage & Jay Haukom		Patty Jessop	Galen McDonald
Dorrie Simon		Stephen Smith		Cheryl Rysavy	
Terry & Kristin Glynn		Janet Hartwig		Barbara Schmidt	Joe Rysavy
Sue Erickson		Owatonna Post Office		MaryAnne Higgins	
Jill Hallenberger		Norman & Marjorie Wonderlich		David & Jean Krause	Jerome Thiele
Troy & Lori Bauder		Paul & Glenda Smith		Keith & Carol Holman	
MaryAnne & Matt Higgins		Heinz Insurance Agency		Mike & Brenda Jensen	
Tom & Deb Karas		Gene & Kaye Fransen		Darwin & Barb Kasper	Lorice Wilkie

*Memorials as of March 15, 2025*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Erin Bates	Mike & Linda McGonigle
Ginny Curtis & Christine Hays	Don & Sue Mullenbach
Shirley Fulmer	Bill Olson
Randy & Barbara Hemstad	Marlin & Denice Peterson
Terry Kalata	Tim Shea
Camille Lewis	Warren Slage
Raymond & Kathleen Lindberg	Jill Smith
Helenann Litsinger	Donald Sundeen
Marshall Lunden	Laurie Velett

## LEGACY FUNDS

Funds as of this printing:

SCHS - \$1,986,763.19

Children Remembered - \$190,008.64

SERVICE BAY- \$116,268.45



## DONATIONS

### SCHS Legacy Fund

Bill & Jody Hartle	Merlin & Denice Peterson
Terry Kalata	Berniece Schroht
Linda McGonigle	

### Orphanage Museum Donations

Gary & Kathleen Hadley	Linda & Mike McGonigle
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### The Children Remembered Legacy Fund

Jodi Richards	Randy & Barbara Hemstad
Don & Vivian Manthe	Colleen Kay Christensen
Mike & Martha Erickson	Marshall Linden
Lance & Kaye Grevious	Helen Ann Litsinger
Mark Livingston	Jean Bendt
John & Michelle Boerema	Merlin & Denice Peterson
Claudia Beaty	Margo Dinneen
Karen Howard	Ginny Curtis & Christine Hays
Gloria Stock Mickelson	Terry Kalata
John E. Stadler	Marcia Jacobs
Bill & Patricia Hoversten	Linda & Michael McGonigle
Warren Slage	Donna Norling