

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

News Release

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New Site Manager at Hay Lake Museum Complex in Scandia

Scandia, Minn. – The Washington County Historical Society (WCHS) has hired Anna Kirchner as the new Site Manager for the Hay Lake Museum Complex in Scandia, Minnesota.

Anna holds a Bachelor's Degree in History and French from the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, and plans to attend graduate school for Nonprofit Management in the fall of 2010. "After a year in limbo," Anna said, "I am excited to begin a job which I believe will be the first step in a lifetime of diverse historic experiences for me. Formal education has its place, but the family-oriented learning that occurs within the walls of a museum is priceless, and I am proud to be able to take part in that."

Anna has held positions at various museums and heritage sites around the metro area, including: The Landing in Shakopee, the Children's Museum in St. Paul, and the Warden's House Museum in Stillwater. She is excited about the new position with the Washington County Historical Society because she not only enjoys working with the public through interpretation and special programming, but also because she is eager to learn more about nonprofit management.

"The Washington County Historical Society was happy to find such a knowledgeable and energetic person to fill this position," said WCHS Historic Sites Supervisor Kirsta Benson Sanchez. "Anna has proven herself as an invaluable intern, and she will certainly be a great asset to our organization and to the Hay Lake Museum Complex."

When she is not working, Anna likes to read – specifically books by Kurt Vonnegut, plan her next road trip and spend time outside rollerblading or tossing the Frisbee around.

Background

The Hay Lake School Museum Complex is comprised of the 1896 Hay Lake School and the Johannes Erickson Log House. The school was once rural school district #2 and was used to educate children in first through eighth grade. It closed as an active school in 1963. The Washington County Historical Society started operating the building as a rural school museum in 1974 and purchased the building from the Forest Lake School district in 1978.

The Johannes Erickson Log House was constructed in 1868. The log house typifies homes constructed by early Swedish immigrant farmers in the Midwest. Both properties are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The museum complex is open Saturday and Sunday from 1 - 4 p.m. in May, September and October and Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 1 - 4 p.m. in June, July and August.

Stop by the Hay Lake Museum Complex to meet Anna and explore local history this summer!

Washington County Historical Society collects, preserves, and disseminates the history of the county and the state of Minnesota.

Founded in 1934, the Washington County Historical Society is a private, donor-supported, nonprofit organization with more than 700 individual, family, and business members. WCHS is supported by individual gifts, memberships, earned income, and foundation grants. For more information, please visit www.wchsmn.org.