

Citizens – Thure Anderson

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*Thure Anderson (1883-1954)*

Thure Anderson was born in Kristianstad, Sweden on 3 September 1883. He and his mother Bengta (1858-1949) arrived in the United States on 19 August 1910 according to his Naturalization Certificate dated 24 March 1941.

On 12 September 1918, he enlisted in WW I. The information on the form indicated that he was 5 ft 5 inches tall with blond hair and blue eyes. At the time he was working as a stock clerk at Eagle Ottawa Leather Company. He was still working there according to the WW II Draft application which he completed on 27 April 1942.

In the 1920 census his occupation was listed as a slate splitter. The 1934 City Directory showed that he was living in Whitehall.

Thure Anderson lived in Montague with his widowed mother until her death on 6 October 1949. He never married. When he died in March 1954, his estate, which included bonds,

property, and a recently built house on Bowen Street, was valued in excess of \$25,000. His will provided the estate be held in trust and designated \$10,000 be awarded to the first general hospital built within five miles of Lipka Drug store. The will also stated that in case no hospital was built within 10 years the estate be given to the city for a new City Hall or project such as a park or city hall or other community structure.

In October 1952, the Chamber of Commerce took a survey which indicted 73% of city residents and 63% of rural residents would be in favor of a community hospital.

Unfortunately, roadblocks and dilemmas plagued the hospital board so the project fell through.

Then in 1967 the need arose for a new City Hall. The original City Hall along with the fire department was located on the corner of Ferry and Spring Streets from 1883-1963. In 1963 City Hall was relocated to the Ohrenberger 1930 block – now home to Sawyers Brewery. In 1967 plans were being put in place to construct a new City Hall on the Causeway – now home of the Busy Bee Café next to the Weathervane Inn. Construction of the new City Hall began in August 1969 and the first meeting was held there in January 1970.

The executors of Anderson's estate gave the funds to the city for the new City Hall. At that time, the amount was about \$51,000. The building was used as the City Hall until August 1988 when it was sold, and City Hall moved to its current location of the corner of Ferry & Spring – across the street from its original location.

Thure Anderson and his mother are buried in Oak Grove Cemetery.