

ANDY WILLIAMS BIRTHPLACE

Howard Andrew "Andy" Williams was born in Wall Lake, Iowa, on December 3, 1927, to Jay and Florence (Finely) Williams. He joined a family of three brothers: Bob, Dick, and Don. Sister Jane and another brother, Gilbert, were also born in Sac County.



The whole family lived with Grandpa Andrew Finely at 102 East 1st Street on the top of a hill overlooking the Chicago & Northwestern Depot.



The Williams boys started singing as a group at the local Presbyterian Church in the choir with their parents. When Andy was eight years of age, the family left Wall Lake. Andy and his brothers started singing on the WHO radio station in Des Moines.



From there the family moved to Chicago and the brothers joined *National Barn Dance* on WLS Radio. Later, they moved on to WLW in Cincinnati, where they sang on a morning show called *Time to Shine*.

Andy's brothers joined the armed services during World War II. When they returned, they formed a quartet called The Williams Brothers and started a night club act with Kay Thompson. In 1953 Andy struck out on his own. From there his career soared and his television break came in 1958, hosting *The Chevy Showroom with Andy Williams*.

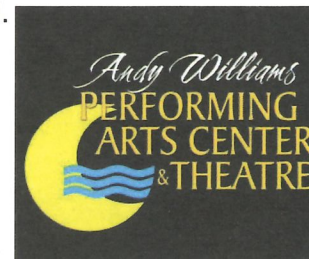


In 1962, *The Andy Williams Show* debuted and ran for 10 years on NBC, winning three Emmy Awards for Best Musical Variety Show.



Recognized internationally, Andy Williams holds a long list of Emmy, Grammy and Golden Globe nominations and awards. Some of his famous songs include: "Moon River," "The Days of Wine and Roses," "The Shadow of Your Smile," and "Can't Get Used to Losing You." These and love themes from "The Godfather" and "Love Story" have earned Andy Williams 20 RIAA certified Gold and Platinum Albums.

Andy designed and helped create the Andy Williams Moon River Theatre in Branson, Missouri, opening on May 1, 1992. He was the first non-country performer, paving the way for the many who followed. He appeared there regularly until a battle with bladder cancer claimed his life on September 25, 2012.



Former President Ronald Reagan may have put it best when he referred to Andy Williams' voice as a national treasure.

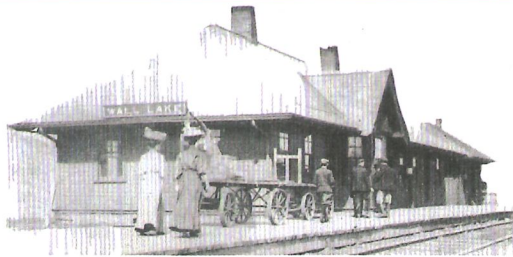
The Birthplace, a home built at the turn of the 20th century by Andy's maternal grandparents, William Samuel and Margaret Robinson, was purchased by the Wall Lake Historical Society in 1992. The home has been restored to the late 1920's and 1930's era.



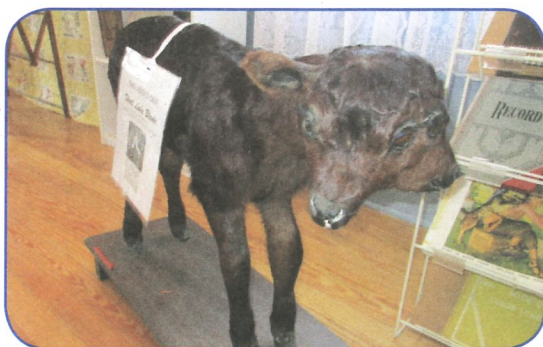
The grounds around the Birthplace have been landscaped, a smoke house re-assembled, a summer kitchen brought in from the country and converted to a gift shop and there is even the proverbial outhouse.



Andy and his family returned to Wall Lake on August 22, 1998 and were the parade marshals for the 53rd Annual Wall Lake Farm Festival Parade. A ceremony was held to dedicate the birthplace and Andy was presented with a key to the city by the Mayor. Then Andy thrilled the crowd with the performance of his signature song, "Moon River." The Williams family was pleased with the restoration of the home and have contributed many pictures to the photo gallery.



The east room of the C&NW Depot, once used as the baggage processing area and repair shop, now holds many memories from the yesteryears in the Wall Lake area. A nice selection of period clothing highlights wedding attire, military dress, school apparel, and youth organization uniforms. Unique to the museum is a uniform worn by the Popcorn Kernels, an all Negro semi-pro baseball team hired to represent Wall Lake in the 1950's. Memorabilia from local businesses is featured. Household items of the past give glimpses into the evolution of current day articles. Many reminisce fond experiences of "town night" as they view the popcorn cart that was situated in the front lawn of the proprietor. A sanctuary railing from the Methodist Church brings poignant memories of the church closing.



Thoughts of nature's wonder and amazement are associated with a unique taxidermy specimen - a two-headed calf born on a local farm. Collective pieces are welcomed to expand the ever-changing variety of treasures!

Andy Williams Birthplace
 102 East First Street
 Wall Lake, Iowa 51466
 712-664-2119

Chicago & Northwestern Depot
Wall Lake Museum Room
 105 South Center Street
 Wall Lake, Iowa 51466

Regularly Scheduled Hours:
From Memorial Day to Labor Day
Sundays 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

To arrange a tour to fit your schedule call:

Janice Determann
 712-664-2691
 or
Kathie Willhoite
 712-664-2585



WALL LAKE

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Andy Williams Birthplace



Chicago & Northwestern Depot