



DES MOINES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Heritage Museum • Bart Howard Lounge • Garrett-Phelps House • Crapo Park Log Cabin
501 N. 4th Street • Burlington, Iowa 52601 • 319.752.7449 • www.dmchs.org

Volume 45 No 4

April 2022 Newsletter

Town Meeting: Raptor Resource Project

Look to the skies! Spring in Iowa brings new blooms, warmer temperatures and of course, new animal babies!

Lori Carnes, from the Raptor Resource Project will be at the Heritage Museum on Saturday, April 2, 2022 with live camera footage of the newly hatched baby eaglets! Lori used the Decorah Eagle Cam for 9 years when she was teaching and this is her 3rd year of volunteering for Raptor Resource Project.

Lori helps moderate the Education chat, Mississippi Flyway Chat, write curriculum for teachers, and give presentations. She was an elementary teacher for many years at Mediapolis Community Schools.

Founded in 1988 by the late Bob Anderson, the non-profit Raptor Resource Project specializes in the preservation of

falcons, eagles, ospreys, hawks, and owls. They create, improve, and directly maintain over 40 nests and nest sites, provide training in nest site creation and management, and develop innovations in nest site management and viewing that bring people closer to the natural world.

The Raptor Resource Project's mission is to preserve and strengthen raptor populations, expand participation in raptor preservation, and help foster the next generation of preservationists.

The Columbia Street door will open at 12:30 for the presentation which begins at 1:00 pm. The program is free and is open to the public.



Welcome to "The Crinoid Capitol of the World"



the mid Cambrian, about 300 million years before dinosaurs.

They flourished in the Paleozoic and Mesozoic eras and some survive to the present day. Dr. Gahn attended Ricks College, Brigham Young University, the University of Cincinnati, and the University of Michigan, where he earned his PhD. All of his degrees are in geology with an emphasis in marine invertebrate paleontology. Shortly after coming to be on the faculty at Brigham Young University-Idaho in 2003, he took a two year leave of absence to work at the Smithsonian Institute, then got his PHD in Geology from the University of Michigan in 2004, specializing in invertebrate paleontology. He began an appointment with the Dept. of Paleobiology at the Smithsonian as a Springer Fellow.

In 2006 he rejoined the faculty at Brigham Young University - Idaho as a professor of Geology. He is known as Dr. Crinoid, for his interest in all things crinoid.

Dr. Gahn has agreed to assist DMCHS once again in creating an exhibit dedicated to crinoids that will hopefully rival those of major museums and will draw many crinoid experts to our museum for many years to come!

Dr. Crinoid will be at the Des Moines County Heritage Museum for a special presentation on Tuesday April 12, 2022. The Columbia Street door opens at 6pm and the presentation begins at 6:30. Please welcome us in joining Dr. Gahn back to the DMC Heritage Museum.

Born and raised in Burlington, Iowa, Dr. Forest Gahn fell in love with crinoids in his own backyard. Did you know that Burlington is the Crinoid Capital of the World being home to some 300 species? Crinoids are marine animals belonging to the phylum Echinodermata and the class Crinoidea. They are an ancient fossil group that first appeared in the seas of

Bird's Eye View

What should we do when our lives seem to spin around us? I asked this question to several co-workers and friends recently just to get their point of view.

The most common response was take a look at all the things that are spinning—and determine what you can eliminate or streamline. Gee, sounds so simple.

Each of the people I asked gave me their take on what is important to them. Number 1 of course, was family; then financial stability, followed by satisfaction from accomplishment (that's probably a synopsis of the latter response, several of which made me giggle.)

What many of us have done to simplify our lives has actually made things more complex.

"Did I save that file to my computer at work, my computer at home, a flash drive, in the cloud?", etc.

At DMCHS we are looking at Spring to formulate a plan to streamline some of our processes while not letting important things slip through the cracks. Keep following us through this newsletter, our Facebook pages and our website to see how we progress. Wish us luck!



Robin



Carrie

It's For Your Enjoyment!



Kaela

Spring is coming and there is so many exciting things happening at the Des Moines County Historical Society and the Bart Howard Lounge!

Music Bingo is back April 22 from 6-9pm. \$10 gets you in the door to play 3 games. With the amount of love and generosity our devoted bingo players have shown us, we are excited to announce advanced tickets are on sale now! Call 319.752.7449 and Kaela will get you all set up!

In other entertainment news, Sundae + Mr. Goessl will be returning to the Bart Howard Lounge for a show May 7th, 2022 which is Mothers Day weekend! Treat mom to a lovely show where Sundae (Kate Voss) and her husband Mr. (Jason) Goessl will charm you with their wits and beautiful music!

On Saturday June 4th, 2022, Jordan Danielsen and Jef Spradley will be making an appearance in the Bart Howard Lounge. Jordan is a Denver, Colorado native, but grew up in Davenport on the Mississippi. In 2014 Jordan started touring with a young musician out of Houston, Texas by the name of Jef Spradley. Somehow this country boy found his way to the Quad Cities. It should be a lively and fun-filled evening for all!

There are many other performers who will grace the "Fly Me to the Moon" venue in the coming months, including Lojo Russo, making a return visit in 2022 (she was here for our first public reopening event last July), Colin Long, and Ace Jones! More information will be forthcoming—be sure you are on our email list!

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DES MOINES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

April 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p><i>Fun facts about holidays, national days and this day in history available at holidayinsights.com.</i></p>					1 Heritage Museum open 10-3pm 1778—Dollar sign invented by Oliver Pollack "\$"	2 Heritage Museum open 10-3pm Town Meeting with 1pm
3	4 1968—Martin Luther King, Jr. Assassinated	5	6 Heritage Museum open 10-3pm	7 Heritage Museum open 10-3pm	8 Heritage Museum open 10-3pm	9 Heritage Museum open 10-3pm 1974—Hank Aaron surpasses Babe Ruth's home run total (Hits #715)
10 1912—The RMS Titanic departs on it's maiden (and final voyage)	11	12 SPECIAL PRESENTATION Dr. Forest Gahn Crinoids	13 Heritage Museum open 10-3pm	14 Heritage Museum open 10-3pm 1955—First franchised McDonald's opens in Des Plaines, IL	15 Heritage Museum open 10-3pm	16 Heritage Museum open 10-3pm
17 Easter	18	19 1611—First known performance of Shakespeare's Macbeth	20 Heritage Museum open 10-3pm	21 Heritage Museum open 10-3pm	22 Heritage Museum open 10-3pm Music Bingo w/ Cokeena	23 Heritage Museum open 10-3pm
24	25 1859—Ground is broken for the Suez Canal	26	27 Heritage Museum open 10-3pm	28 Heritage Museum open 10-3pm 1789—Mutiny on the HMS Bounty most famous naval mutiny	29 Heritage Museum open 10-3pm	30 Heritage Museum open 10-3pm

Out of the Attic: Perkins' Fossils

Julie



Spring is here, and with it comes the return of creatures like robins, and other seasonal residents. Other creatures that reappear with the warmer weather are distantly related to the subject of this article. The object also has ties to both the Perkins family, and to Colorado.

Some 34 million years ago, the world was a very different place. In El Paso County, Colorado, the climate was more akin to the coastal rainforest of the West Coast than the arid high plains that we find today. Redwoods and other conifers stood tall around a smallish lake, while a plethora of plants, insects and animals were presumably living their best lives. Microscopic creatures called “diatoms” were busily enjoying a huge bloom in their population, and life was good. Until it wasn't.

At some point, one of a series of stratovolcanoes erupted, ejecting a quantity of ash and other material. The airborne ash settled in the Florissant area, along with an event called a “Lahar”, (possibly started by a pyroclastic flow) that eventually buried the depression that the lake occupied. In the process, things like conifer cones, fish, and flowers were buried in the layers, along with redwoods and other conifers and shrubs. Fortunately for us (and unfortunately for the bug), our object was created by one such event.

Fast forward to about 1860, when the area was mapped by geologists for the first time. Science was alerted to the importance of the paper shale formations that were found there. About a decade later, Charles Perkins would become the president of the C.B. & Q. (later BNSF) railroad. Working for the railroad had the advantage of allowing Perkins (and his family) to travel across the country in relative ease and comfort. One of the Perkins' family's favorite places to visit was the American West. More specifically, Colorado. In fact,

Perkins loved the area so much that he would go on to purchase the land that would later become the Gardens of the Gods.

Like many people of the time, Perkins loved to collect things. He seems to have been a Natural History buff, as evidenced by the rather large natural history and ethnographic collection that Perkins would bequeath to the Burlington School district, (who would in turn donate the Perkins collection to DMCHS). One of the objects in the Perkins collection was a tiny insect that was trapped in a lake, some 34 million years ago, in the Florissant formation.

Want to see objects from the Perkins Collection, or that are featured in the articles in person? Come on down to the Heritage Museum and check out the Perkins display in the Apple Trees case, or in the special rotating display case that feature Out of the Attic, Ask an Expert, and From the Archives objects during regular business hours.

Special thanks Don Weiss Photography



DMCHS Seeking Part-time Administrative Assistant

DMCHS wishes to add an Administrative Assistant to the staff. This position would be part time, will include rotating Saturdays and may also include helping at events and programs (so some evening hours may be necessary.)

A person interested in this position would have great interpersonal skills, work well with others, be able to take

direction as well as work independently, and must have good working knowledge of computers.

Specific preferred skills would include word processing, spreadsheets, (Office & Google apps), and basic email and technology concepts. QuickBooks experience is a plus. Training will be provided as needed.

The position reports to the Executive Director and will serve as an integral part of the DMCHS team. Knowledge of Des Moines County history is a plus, but not required.

For more information about the position, please contact Robin Schneiderman, Executive Director at 319.752.7449 or robins@dmchs.org.

Word Scramble



Taylor

1. DOFAIDFLS _____
2. APILR LSOFO _____
3. SSNUEIHN _____
4. AILRP RESOWHS _____
5. NNITLOAA UEERONVLT HMTNO _____
6. LMELRBUA _____
7. ASERTE NNUYB _____
8. CLUODS _____
9. CINRAOTA _____
10. DWIYN _____
11. LECCYRE _____
12. SRTAEE _____
13. EVNOCRANSTIO _____
14. JLEYL NAESB _____
15. NEADGR _____
16. NSOABRWI _____
17. RPNK _____
18. LFRWSEO _____
19. HOSUEPRER ADY _____
20. UONLIPTOL _____
21. INAALTNO AIBNRLRIA DYA _____
22. EHRTA ADY _____
23. UIAMST SSEAANEWR MHTNO _____
24. LDUDPES _____
25. TXA DAY _____

Music Bingo is *BAAACK!*

Faster than a sharp-toothed saber cat, stronger than a sonic boom, and wittier than a comedian on laughing gas! Our hostess with the most music, Cokeena, returns on Friday, April 22nd for our 6th installment of “Bingo for your ears”!

New this month, advance ticket sales! Buy your tickets by calling 319.752.7449 or stopping at the Heritage Museum, Wed-Sat from 10am to 3pm. Reserved tables available for 4 or more with prepaid tickets only. All others will be general admission.

This month will feature Audience Favorite songs, Staff & Board Favorite songs and Cokeena’s Favorite songs. Still only \$10 for 3 games!

There will be drink specials from 6 to 7 pm at the Spirit of Miss Lilly Bar with games afoot at 7:00.

Please note that we can no longer allow outside food or drink to be brought into the Bart Howard Lounge. Pizza will be available to purchase by the slice or whole pie beginning at 6pm.

Our VIP table was won at the “not-so-silent” auction on February 25. For information on becoming a VIP sponsor for a Music Bingo night—or for any other performance event, contact Kaela at 319.752.7449 or email her at kaelar@dmchs.org.



Cokeena

Voices From the Stacks: Mary Harris



Linda

Headlines read: Jilted lover kills her former boyfriend.... “ Not much is actually known about Mary Harris. She was born in Burlington, Iowa to a poor family of Irish descent. She had little education and for most of her younger life she worked at a hat making shop.

This is where our story begins. Adoniram Judson Burroughs fell in love with Mary while she worked at the hat making shop. Mary courted him from the ages of 12 to 15. Burroughs paid for her basic education and gave Mary money.

Moving to Chicago, Illinois, Burroughs hoped for better business prospects. He requested Mary join him when she turned 18. Burroughs found work in Washington D.C. and moved again. He continued to write to Mary. On September 8, 1863 Mary received an unsigned letter. She assumed it was from Burroughs. She followed where the letter came from. However, she found Burroughs had married. She was distraught and she went to his office on January 31, 1865 where she shot him twice killing him.

On February 1, 1865 the Washington Chronicle posted a story. Mr. Milburn the deputy warden and a few reporters from the New York Times went to visit Mary in jail and get her story. They reported that when they entered the room, she was pacing the floor in mental distress. Her appearance showed she was in terrible agony of the hours that had passed while in prison. She appeared to be older than her stated age, but of good figure, rather slight with a well formed head; dark hazel eyes; fine hair that

appeared to be black and short and worn in curls. Her manner was graceful and she was naturally intelligent. She spoke well, but not superfluous. The rest is her side of the story.

She stated her name and lineage. She stated she was nineteen years old. She first became acquainted with Mr. Burroughs while she was working in a store in Burlington. Burroughs resided in Burlington and frequently came to her father's house early on their acquaintance. "I was very fond of him and for a long time frequently sat in his lap in the presence of my parents; he always manifested great interest in me; as I grew older and his attentions became more of the character of a suitor, my parents opposed them, and continually told me that his family was too high for me and he would never marry me, and that I should not keep company with him". She persisted in seeing him; disregarding her parents' wishes, becoming more attached to him. She never asked him to correspond with her when he left Burlington, but he wasn't gone long when letters started arriving. She answered him and they continued corresponding. Mary stated before he left Burlington, he had



proposed, but she felt she was too young to disobey her parents. She stated he was persistent and determined to make her his wife.

Mary said "a year ago in August or September, I had received an anonymous letter asking me to meet him at a house, "which I ascertained was one of 'the most notorious in Chicago' ". She and a friend Miss Devlin, tried to find who the anonymous writer was and they only supposed it was Burroughs. She missed him several times and wrote him a note to schedule another time to meet. She decided to have the house watched. She soon decided that since she had loved him and he had professed his love for her and wanted to be a friend; that she would prosecute him for breach of promise. She met with his brother and he told her his brother had moved to Washington. He also informed her his brother was married. She went to Washington to find him only to find he had gone to Chicago with his wife. Once she got to Chicago, she found he had gone back to Washington. Harris, while in Chicago this second time, hired a lawyer and a detective. She had been disowned by her parents as it had been reported that she had had improper relations with Burroughs. She felt she had nowhere to turn. She did follow him as she was seeking redress or to vindicate her reputation.

Before leaving for Washington she was walking along and saw some pistols in a shop window. While many ladies in Chicago carried pistols, she felt she should buy one, especially since she would be traveling alone.

She stated she figured out how to load it, but was called away and put the pistol in her purse and forgot to unload it.

Cont. on page 7

Mary Harris-From page 6.

She stated she had no intention of using it. However, she went to the Treasury in Washington D.C. disguised with a "Nubian" (large scarf) and veil. She waited for him to come out of his office and when he did, she killed him. She stated she didn't remember it. The reporters then felt they should talk to his family and see what they had to say. It should be noted that during this time in our history, the defense used the evidence of six doctors who testified and gave evidence that she had a history of

painful dysmenorrhea, or painful menstruation, and it is possible to have an effect on the mental state of someone going through this. Evidence showed that she had been on her period at the time she committed the murder and had been seeing Dr. Calvin M. Fitch for treatment. He testified that 'uterine irritability is one of the most frequent causes of insanity''. He also stated this included "'paroxysmal'" or temporary insanity. The other five doctors agreed with Fitch and also stated that "irritation of the uterus, in

combination with significant emotion distress, was sufficient to produce temporary insanity, which would render the sufferer blameless for her actions".

So how did this end? Her trial began July 3 and ended July 19. Her attorney Joseph H. Bradley supported her defense. Her trial marked the "first time in a U. S. court-room that expert medical testimony supported a plea of paroxysmal (temporary) insanity in a murder defense." She was eventually found "not guilty".

Donations & Memberships

Received by March 15, 2022

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Virgil Ruschill
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Donation Form/Membership Renewal

Check (# _____) Cash Credit Card (For credit card please call the Heritage Museum @ 319.752.7449)

Please send completed forms to DMC Historical Society, 501 N 4th Street, Burlington, IA 52601. Make checks payable to DMCHS.

Name _____

Address _____ City, St, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

Membership Renewal (Select only one:) Individual \$25 Family \$50 Bronze \$250

General Donation Amount \$ _____ (Select one) IN MEMORY OF IN HONOR OF ON THE OCCASION OF



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Museum Hours

Heritage Museum: Hours Wednesday thru Saturday 10 am to 3 pm

Garrett-Phelps House & Crapo Park Log Cabin: Will reopen on Sundays beginning May 8th from 1 to 4pm

We will continue to post updates through Facebook, email and our webpage: www.dmchs.org