

DES MOINES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Heritage Museum • Bart Howard Lounge • Garrett-Phelps House • Crapo Park Log Cabin

501 N 4th Street • Burlington, IA 52601 • dmchs.org • 319.752.7449

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Newsletter

Annual Membership Meeting

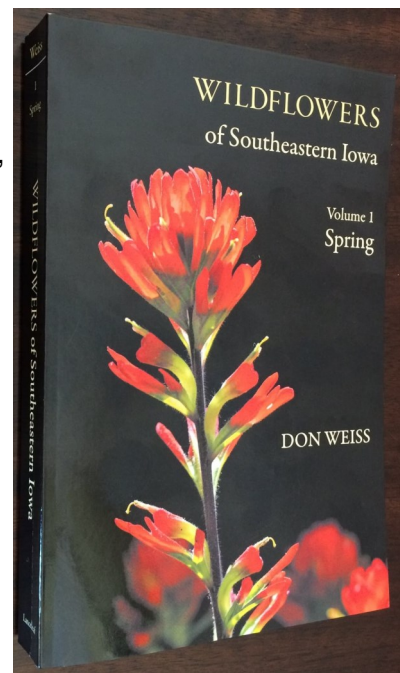
DMCHS held their the Annual Membership meeting of the corporation at 4pm on January 13th at the Heritage Museum. After welcoming all those present, LaVon Worley, President of the board of directors offered thanks and gratitude to board members Donna Logan, Paul French and Tenyshia Redd for their services as board members.

There were four board members whose terms were ending. All four, Mike Bloomer, Alex Sekowski, Eric O'Brien and Paula Logan indicated they wished to serve another 3 year term. With no other nominations from the floor, motion was made to close nominations and elect the four to serve again.

A brief review of the year listed several key accomplishments including the reopening of all three museums post COVID. The porch on the Snake Alley side of the Garrett-Phelps House was renovated thanks in part to the Heritage Trust for their generosity. Many exciting things are happening for DMCHS.

Something is Blooming!

During a 5-year quest to photograph all the wildflowers of Southeastern Iowa, there are some things that happen along the way. First, publishing a two-volume guidebook. Then is finding wildflowers that no one has seen here before. Most importantly, however, there are lessons to be learned. This talk will share a few of photographs and lessons learned along the way. Enjoy Don Weiss as he presents his story in our March Town Meeting on Saturday, March 5 @ 1pm.



February 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> DMCHS open 10-3pm	<i>3</i> DMCHS open 10-3pm	<i>4</i> DMCHS open 10-3pm	<i>5</i> DMCHS open 10-3pm
<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> DMCHS open 10-3pm	<i>10</i> DMCHS open 10-3pm	<i>11</i> DMCHS open 10-3pm	<i>12</i> DMCHS open 10-3pm
<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> Valentines Day	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> DMCHS open 10-3pm	<i>17</i> DMCHS open 10-3pm	<i>18</i> DMCHS open 10-3pm	<i>19</i> DMCHS open 10-3pm
<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> Presidents' Day	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> DMCHS open 10-3pm	<i>24</i> DMCHS open 10-3pm	<i>25</i> DMCHS open 10-3pm	<i>26</i> DMCHS open 10-3pm
<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	Be sure to watch our calendar each month for upcoming events to entertain and educate members of the community & those who visit Des Moines County.				

Bird's Eye View

It really is great to work for Des Moines County Historical Society. We have 5 things going for us: 1) A great Board of Directors, 2) A great staff who truly are dedicated to the organization, 3) Excellent volunteers who are about the museums and the mission, 4) A collection of artifacts that span the centuries and amaze us and last, but not least, 5) Members and donors who provide support not only in dollars, but in their physical presence at our events. This commitment to DMCHS

will be 100 years old in 2039. While that seems a very long time into the future, (only 17 years), it really isn't. Make no mistake, there have been some lean times and some worrisome years, but if we can come out on the other side of this pandemic better than we have been, it is truly a testament to the 5 things, and I'm sure I've left out a few, mentioned here.



Robin

Having lived in Burlington for 13 years, I had no idea the amount of history rich information this town and county held.

My kids' first reaction upon telling them I took this job was "Ew mom, that sounds REALLY boring!"

How many of your kids and grandkids are interested in subjects like trains, Native Americans, fashion, music and so much more? We have information about all of those things and more here at DMC Heritage Museum. As the Event Coordinator, I am always searching for people to give a presentation on a variety of topics.

Town Meetings are booked through October 2022. They are all focused on more adult subject matter. We are hoping to plan some youth oriented, educational events as well. We want to make the museum a FUN place to come and learn, so I am reaching out to our newsletter recipients to talk about local history! Some ideas are as follows:

Railroad History in Burlington- The changes from the Burlington Route, to the merger with Northern, then Santa Fe and finally becoming Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF) and the different types of trains that have come through the area and what they carried.

Native Americans in Burlington- What sort of homes did they have? What sort of food was here for them to eat? When was

the earliest known tribe living in our area?
Early Times/Pioneer days- What did families/kids do for fun to entertain themselves? Food and transportation- What were their options? How did they get around town? Were there restaurants back then?
Clothing through the Decades- How fashion has changed over time. The types of fabric, handmade not factory made. The many different businesses that were here. Mills, factories, and small family owned businesses.
Any other topic that children may find interesting. We would like to keep all of these geared towards the youth in our community to keep them coming back to the museum and attending future programs to learn more about all that our area has to offer on local history. They sit in school and learn about World Wars, the Wild West, and how the railroad ventured out West., but who is teaching them about LOCAL history?
Things that happened right here in the dirt they walk on every day? The people that built their lives here in our city, the many thriving businesses that used to stand downtown, the steamboats that brought wares and people from all over the place. The houses and roads that were built with only man and horsepower, like Snake Alley. No fancy machinery or equipment.

KAELA'S KORMER

2022 Board of Directors

Lavon Worely	Alex Sekowski
Mike Bloomer	Eric O'Brien
Paula Logan	Andrew Mahoney
Don Weiss	Josh Schier
Terri Dowell	

2021-22 Officers

President	LaVon Worley
Vice President	Mike Bloomer
Secretary	Paula Logan
Treasurer	Don Weiss

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Burlington, IA 52601
Voice: 319-752-7449
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dmchs@dmchs.org**



Carrie Bloomer



For Your Entertainment



Kaela Reynolds

Cokeena

**Friday, February 25, 2022—
Music Bingo w/ Cokeena**

Back for the next adventure in “Bingo for Your Ears.” If you haven’t attended one of these fun-filled nights, you really do need to join the party! There are 3 completely different games throughout the night! Songs ranging from various decades, to food fights, movie

themes, etc. the fun doesn’t stop after “B-I-N-G-O!” is called. Drink specials begin when the doors open at 6pm and the wild and crazy games begin at 7pm.



Alex



Friday, March 25, 2022– Trivia Night with Alex Sekowski

Someone donated an Iowa trivia book to the museum and we decided that this was a prime opportunity to host our FIRST trivia night! Our very own DMCHS board member, Alex Sekowski, will be our host with the most! Gather up your friends and come down to the Bart

Howard Lounge for what is sure to be a fun time! The Spirit of Miss Lilly Steamboat Bar will be open to quench your thirst, and prizes will be given to the winning team! Stay tuned in to our Facebook page and the upcoming newsletter for March for more details!

Blame Not the Bard

Friday, March

18, 2022 —“Blame Not the Bard” - This trio has appeared on stage at the Bart Howard Lounge for us in 2018 and 2019. Their Celtic music and charm will once again be on tap for our St.

Patrick’s Day celebration in 2022. Look for more details to follow soon!



Be sure to stay up-to-date on all our events through email and social media. If you are not currently on our email list, send your name and level of interest to kaelar@dmchs.org and you will get added to the list.

If you have changed your email—or have another email to add to our list—let Kaela know as soon as possible.

YOU DON’T WANT TO MISS ANY OF THE FUN!



**FRANK — Since 1864 —
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AND COMPANY, INC.**

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Out of the Attic: Wooden Fishing Net Tools

Object 2012.512.1-.3 are from an unknown donor. They are made of wood and metal, and tie into the rich biodiversity that can be found here in Des Moines County.

They were added to the Collection in 2012, with few details given in the accession book.

The objects are likely well over 100 years old, and were used for the fishing industry in the myriad of waterways here in Des Moines County. The oval shaped object is a wooden float, that was attached to a fishing net, to help it float. The long piece with the eye in it, is sort of a long needle used to weave fishing nets, and we are honestly not sure what the metal spike is for. It could be anything from an anchor point for a net, to a weight, to who knows what (note* it is not uncommon to find unrelated objects bundled together in museum collections, or objects whose purpose is unknown).

Because of the unique topography and geology in Des Moines County, we are uniquely situated to have a hyper abundance of natural resources. Not only are the local waterways useful for transportation, they are also a rich source of food.

Fishing nets date to the dawn of humanity. The oldest known fishing net was found in Finland, is made of willow, and is at least 10,300 years old. Older still are some stone net weights that date to about 27,000 from Korea. Unfortunately for us, the first people to inhabit Des Moines County didn't leave any traces of fishing equipment behind, but their descendants did. Indigenous cultures, up to the present day have long relied on the river and other waterways for things like waterfowl, fish, mollusks, and crustaceans to add variety and protein to their diet.

With the arrival of the Colonizers, the tradition of looking to the water for food continued with fishermen working the river to this day. One can bait a hook, cast your line, and wait for some passing fish to get hungry enough to bite, or you can cast a net, which has the added advantage of usually bringing in more than one fish with each toss.

Are you interested in seeing objects that are featured in Out of the Attic, From the Archives, or Ask an Expert? Come on down to the Heritage Museum, where we have a display case dedicated to a rotating display!

Special thanks Don Weiss Photography



Julie Martineau



FEBRUARY

Word Search

by *Taylor Standard*



February Word Scramble

1. PCIDU _____
2. NIRWTE _____
3. TOOCALCEH _____
4. ARCIEM _____
5. OAWRR _____
6. LAYUQEIT _____
7. DCTPREI _____
8. ERISEDPTSN _____
9. NLLIOCN _____
10. EROS _____
11. TOAHGWNSIN _____
12. EDROFME _____
13. CABLK IROSHTY _____
14. OSWHDA _____
15. THARNIEBE _____
16. DNNPEEDCEEIN _____
17. SETUIJC _____
18. HEWRTEA _____
19. LVEO _____
20. YLVRSAE _____
21. PSNIGR _____
22. BFEYRARU _____
23. ENEATINVL _____
24. NYDAC _____
25. DOORGNGHU _____



#VoicesFromTheStacks: Grace Allen Jones



by *Linda Hall*

Grace Morris Allen Jones was born on January 7, 1876 in Keokuk, Iowa. She was the granddaughter of Charlotta Gordon Pyles — a freed slave.

In order to understand Grace, it is beneficial to also learn about her grandmother, Charlotta. She was enslaved by the Gordon family in Kentucky there they lived on a large plantation. She had twelve children with her. Her husband was a free man by the name of Harry Pyles. However, due to slavery laws he wasn't allowed to protect his wife and children.

After the father of the plantation passed away, he gave the property to his daughter and two sons. The daughter who received Charlotta and most of her family in the inheritance, granted them freedom. So, at the age of fifty-four, Charlotta and all but one of her sons traveled from Kentucky to the free territory just as winter settled in. Harry, Charlotta, eleven children and five grandchildren settled in Keokuk, Iowa. She was unable to free one of her sons from slavery.

Grace was born to James and Mary Ellen Morris, the youngest daughter of Charlotta. The family was well off and they were educated. Grace was known for being an African American educator, but she also helped found schools, did fundraisers, was a postmaster, a clubwoman, a reformer and she was also a writer.

Soon after Grace was born, her family moved to Burlington, IA. Here she became the first African American to attend and graduate from Burlington High School in 1891. She went on to attend Burlington Normal School from 1894-1895. She earned her teacher's certificate from the Normal School and taught in Missouri for three years.

She returned to Burlington and established the Grace M. Allen Industrial School in 1902. This school was established for "colored youth". However, it employed both black and white staff and its success and reputation brought many white students to attend as well.

The first integrated kindergarten in Burlington was established by Grace. She then attended Elliott's business College in 1909 in Burlington.

She met Laurence C Jones at a church in Iowa City. They married in Iowa City in 1912. They had two sons, Laurence

Jr. and Turner Harris. They also adopted a daughter, Helen Elizabeth. The family moved to Mississippi where Grace, along with her husband, organized Piney Woods Country Life School. Grace was not only a teacher, but also an administrator and fundraiser. At the school there were courses in agriculture, carpentry, dairy farming and construction.

Grace organized clubs for women. At the Mothers' Clubs she promoted standards in child rearing, cooking and crafts. She made connections between the Mothers' Clubs and the Mississippi State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs where she was the group's president from 1918-1924. They promoted standards such as African American history and to start libraries for African American children. The Clubs worked to provide resources for physically handicapped African American children so they could learn.

The Margaret Murray Washington Home for Delinquent Youths would not be in existence if not for Grace. She put in a lot of hard work and determination to reform the prison system in Mississippi, where she was instrumental in the building of a reform school to prevent black youth from being incarcerated in facilities with hardened adult criminals.

Besides being successful in all the above, she also worked for the Mississippi Board of Education to include African American state and national history.

On March 2, 1928, at the age of 52, Grace passed away from complications of pneumonia in Rankin County where the Piney Woods Country Life School was located.



Donations & Memberships

Eff. with this month's newsletter we will be publishing receipts dated the previous month thru the 15th of the last month.

Annual Appeal Donations

Randall Krekel
David & Amy Camp
Larry Ramer
John & Judy Sandell
Margaret Zeran
Barbara & David Miller
Gail Sullivan
Deb & Danny Bessine
Patricia Steiner
Barb & Ted Horn
Judith Johnson
Tim & Tonja Binder
Sandra Allgood
Olive Sullivan
Daniel Meade

Garrett-Phelps House South Porch Project

Pat Mayle

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Donald Lippert
Lois Close
Lois Orth
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Doug & Heather Beckman
Bev & Duane Sherbondy

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 _____

This donation is to renew my membership (Select only one:) Individual \$25 Family \$50 Bronze \$250

I am making this donation (Select one) IN MEMORY OF IN HONOR OF ON THE OCCASION OF



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Museum Hours

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

Garrett-Phelps House & Crapo Park Log Cabin: Closed until spring.

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