



# 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 5

May 2022 Newsletter

## Crinoid Collection Arrives in Burlington

*The Crinoids are here! The Crinoids are here!* Okay, so what's the big deal you say? It truly is more than a big deal, not only for DMCHS, but for our community as a whole.

A crinoid, for those of you who may not know, is a marine animal. DMCHS was recently gifted with a world class collection of crinoids, marking the first time in 111 years that Des Moines County has a significant collection of these fossils.

Since the 19th century, Burlington has been known as the "Crinoid Capital", largely because of the scientific work of Charles Wachsmuth and Frank Springer. The first crinoid species named west of the Mississippi River (in 1850) were collected in Burlington, and since that time over 250 unique species of these marine animals have been described from Des Moines County. In 1911, that collection was shipped from Burlington to



Washington, D.C., leaving the Crinoid Capital without good examples of the fossils for which it is so famous. The newly received collection at the Heritage Museum represents the third largest research collection of crinoids from the Burlington Limestone. It includes more than 3,000 crinoids, blastoids, and other marine fossils collected by Kenneth Tibbits of Hannibal, Missouri. Ken and his late wife, Linda, recently donated this remarkable collection of fossils. Please stop down during Museum hours and see these amazing gems!

## Hidden Treasure: Door Knob

With no accession number or provenance to tell us where it came from, it is thought to be at least 100 years old and quite heavy for its size. It does however, show signs of wear in places where the warm coppery colored patina has been worn away through repeated use.

What makes this object interesting is the design around the front of the knob. Known as "egg and dart", or "egg and tongue" the design can be found throughout the Heritage Hill area of Burlington. The style dates back into antiquity, when it was commonly used by the ancient Greeks as an architectural detail. It experienced a resurgence in popularity in the late 19th/early 20th century, when all things from antiquity suddenly became fashionable. The egg and dart features were often accompanied by "dentils", tooth like blocks of wood in rows, both of which can

be found throughout the Heritage Museum building.

The Heritage Museum was started in 1896, and completed in 1898, and was a wonder of the ages for an up-and-coming town like Burlington. Known as the "Chicago of the West". Indeed, there were high hopes for the cultural scene in Burlington. There were nights out at the opulent Opera House, as well as memberships in the various social clubs, and a thriving "society", made up of up-and-comers, as well as more "established" families.

The Trustees spared no expense, including such wonders as hand-laid marble terrazzo floors, marble statues, and hand carved woodwork. And, more relevant to our subject, there are numerous examples of the cup and dart motif

throughout, especially on the main level. The wood and metal work can be found throughout the building, including the utilitarian spaces like the overflow room, now the main archival space. Dentils too, abound. They can be seen all throughout the main level, especially in the crown molding in the Entryway area, Atrium, and Grand Gallery.

While we have no way of knowing where the door knob originally came from, it's nice to think that it originated in the Heritage Museum. It certainly fits the overall theme of the space.

Special thanks to Don Weiss Photography



## From the Director's Desk

This week we hosted several representatives from the Viking Steamship Cruise Line. They were here on a logistics visit to prepare for the Viking dockings this summer. I am pleased to say how impressed they were with our museums and our staff. We may know how special our museums are, but it is our mission to share them, the buildings, the contents *and* the stories.

This summer, with both Viking and American Queen set to dock on our shoreline, we will have that opportunity as many as 19 times. That is the number of combined scheduled visits. It will be more important than ever to have you, our members on hand to help us provide the best experience to our visitors.

If you would like to help us share our history, please consider volunteering for one or more of these dates. It will take at least 6 or 8 people at each location (Heritage Museum & Garrett-Phelps House) each day to accomplish this. Volunteers are needed from late July through

October. A full list of docking dates and other pertinent information is available if you call the office at 319.752.7449. Many thanks! **Robin**



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## Town Meeting: Burlington Streetcars with Rodney Botts

Our next Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 7th at 1pm in the lower level of the DMC Heritage Museum.

Rodney Botts, local historian, will present the colorful history of the electric cars and how they shaped land traffic in our community. Rodney is well known for his vibrant tours of North Hill, the Historic Districts and Downtown Burlington.

The Columbia Street door will be open at 12:30. This is a free event and everyone is welcome to attend, so grab a friend and join us for what will be a very interesting look into Burlington's past.



ISU Streetcar on Madison Avenue  
Photo by Bill Weaver (grandfather Harvey on front)

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### 2022-23 Board of Directors

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Don Weiss, Treasurer  
Paula Logan, Secretary  
Terri Dowell  
Andrew Mahoney  
Joshua Schier  
Alex Sekowski

### DES MOINES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Staff

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# DES MOINES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



# May 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1  <i>MAY DAY</i>	2  1878 - The U.S. stops minting the 20 cent coin	3  <i>Heritage Museum OPEN 10-3pm</i>	4  <i>Heritage Museum OPEN 10-3pm</i>	5  <i>Heritage Museum OPEN 10-3pm</i> 1893 - The NYSE crashes, causing the "Great Panic of 1893" <i>CINCO DE MAYO</i>	6  <i>Heritage Museum OPEN 10-3pm</i>	7  <i>Heritage Museum OPEN 10-3pm</i>  <b>Town Meeting 1pm</b>
8  <i>Garrett-Phelps and Log Cabin OPEN 1-4</i>  <i>MOTHER'S DAY</i>	9	10  <i>Heritage Museum OPEN 10-3pm</i>	11  <i>Heritage Museum OPEN 10-3pm</i>	12  <i>Heritage Museum OPEN 10-3pm</i>  1792 - The flush toilet is patented	13  <i>Heritage Museum OPEN 10-3pm</i>	14  <i>Heritage Museum OPEN 10-3pm</i>
15  <i>Garrett-Phelps House and Log Cabin OPEN 1-4</i>	16	17  <i>Heritage Museum OPEN 10-3pm</i>  1900 - "The Wonderful World of Oz" is published	18  <i>Heritage Museum OPEN 10-3pm</i>	19  <i>Heritage Museum OPEN 10-3pm</i>	20  <i>Heritage Museum OPEN 10-3pm</i>	21  <i>Heritage Museum OPEN 10-3pm</i>  1881 - The American Red Cross was formed
22  <i>Garrett-Phelps House and Log Cabin OPEN 1-4</i>	23  1785 - Benjamin Franklin invents bifocals	24  <i>Heritage Museum OPEN 10-3pm</i>	25  <i>Heritage Museum OPEN 10-3pm</i>	26  <i>Heritage Museum OPEN 10-3pm</i>	27  <i>Heritage Museum OPEN 10-3pm</i> 1930 - Richard Gurley Drew receives a patent for cellophane tape	28  <i>Heritage Museum OPEN 10-3pm</i>
29  <i>Garrett-Phelps House and Log Cabin OPEN 1-4</i>	30  <i>MEMORIAL DAY</i>	31  <i>Heritage Museum OPEN 10-3pm</i> 1884 - Dr. John Harvey Kellogg patents "flaked cereal"	<b>May Funnies</b> Which month of the year is the shortest? <i>May. It only has 3 letters.</i>  What did the dirt say to the rain? <i>You better cut it out or my name will be mud!</i>			

**Our Mission: Provide Opportunities for education, research and the preservation of Des Moines County History**



# Word Search

O Q R V U R A L L I P R E T A C A  
 A N E M O N E S N Y A S O P Q C A  
 Z M M T F V E R G I J V F Y S O B  
 T H U P B C O G N D U L E T N Z H  
 B M O B Y F L X G R O S K V O H O  
 G K B N C U H U R W J O F B G Q D  
 S V Q X E J F E E O I N K R A B A  
 H C W A E Y H R L K O T T L R K I  
 O W A W D T S A Y I B X W I D A K  
 W D B R O L I U T L K N I L P Y M  
 E J Y M N R A A C A F U M A A T Q  
 R K R T O A U R C K G R B C N R Q  
 S G T M O D T Y E X L Q E N S A U  
 L M E L A M D I N M Y E I T M P M  
 C M Y R A T Y Q O Z E U E P T S M  
 W X G B N W S H G N O L B P N U I  
 H Y L K J B N B I R T H D A Y S B

- EMERALD
- PARTY
- BIRTHDAY
- GRADUATION
- CATERPILLAR
- LAWN
- HONEYSUCKLE
- BUTTERFLY
- LILAC
- ANEMONES
- CARNATION
- SNAPDRAGONS
- MEMORIAL
- MOTHER
- SHOWERS
- RAIN
- FLOWERS

## New, Temporary Look at Garrett-Phelps

For well over a year the Board of Directors has been searching for a contractor who could make needed repairs and changes to the concrete steps in the front of the Garrett-Phelps House. Safety was the greatest motivation.

After visiting with the Preservation Commission, city engineers and others, it was determined to create a temporary deck to accommodate the large number of visitors through the historic home this summer. Volunteers agreed to create this fix, which is both secure and much, much safer. It meets all of the criteria that the city required. While there are already concerns about the style, please know, that once we are able to fully repair the steps as well as the sidewalk out to the street, we will do our very best to mimic what was original to the majestic house.

All of you who have visited the GPH know that there has been a safety concern at this entrance. When we moved the entrance for visitors to the west porch last year, it was based on safety then as well. We will continue to have traffic flow in from the west walk and out through the front door using the new steps this season to best serve the story of the house and the safety of those who visit.



# May 7th Show Cancelled ☹️

Due to unforeseen circumstances the May 7th Sundae + Mr. Goessl performance has been cancelled. Kate Voss and Jason Goessl are such fantastic performers we hope to reschedule them in the future. For now, be sure to catch them on Youtube.com, on Facebook @sundaeandmrgoessl or thru their website, <https://sundaeandmrgoessl.com/>. You can contact them directly through email ([booksundae@gmail.com](mailto:booksundae@gmail.com)) and purchase one of their CDs so you can enjoy their wonderful blend of song and humor.



## Donations & Memberships

*Received by April 15, 2022*

### Memberships

Rodney Reeves  
Taylor Standard  
Terry Laswell  
Norma Johnson  
Joyce Harvey  
Deb Bessine  
Ruth Ann Sandrock  
Howard Rescott  
Jerry & Lois Rigdon  
Jerry & Pat Courtney  
Kim & Jerry Kracaw  
Al & Cyndy Fabel  
Josh & Kathleen Schier  
Dwight & Sue Mulch

### Donations

Suzanne Brueck  
Terry Lasswell  
BNSF Railway

### In Memory of Marge Bell

LaVon & Judy Worley  
Todd & Cheryl Dirth  
Marcia Lohman  
Sverre Thomassen  
Ernest & Linda Voigt  
Suzanne & Dean Vickstrom  
Wayne & Colleen Heibner

### In Memory of Edward Anderson

Judy Stevens

### Memory Garden Bricks

JOHN & PEGGY  
McCORMALLY

GLORIA M JEWETT  
& SCOTT W WOOD

EVANGELINE  
RAY

KERI  
MENDENHALL

KYLA DEAN  
MIKE ELYN DEAN

*All by Terry Strother*

## Donation Form/Membership Renewal

Check (# \_\_\_\_\_)     Cash     Credit Card (For credit card please go to our website [www.dmchs.org](http://www.dmchs.org))

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*



Vintage Clipart courtesy  
The Graphics Fairy

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## ***Museum Hours***

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

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

We will continue to post updates through Facebook, email and our webpage: [www.dmchs.org](http://www.dmchs.org)