



DES MOINES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Heritage Museum • Bart Howard Lounge • Garrett-Phelps House • Crapo Park Log Cabin
501 N 4th Street • Burlington, IA 52601 • 319.752.7449 • www.dmchs.org

Volume 46 No. 2

NEWSLETTER

February 2023

From the Executive Director

by Colton Neely

As we moved into 2023, the Des Moines County Historical Society was closed to the general public for the entire month of January. I would like to thank all members and patrons who continued to support our museums with donations and patience. The months of January and February are well known as the slowest time of year for many museums, including our own. However, instead of waiting out the winter lull, we took advantage of the opportunity to reorganize our collections.

Why did we reorganize our collections, you may ask? Over the years we have been open, our mission has been to collect information and objects that tell various fascinating stories about Des Moines County, stories of immigration to Burlington, rural small towns in Iowa, Black Hawk Rock, and anything that has a connection to this county. We have collected so much that it is time to overhaul the collections so we can collect more. We have also been taking extra care in cleaning and organizing every artifact, believing that this will physically help our staff and volunteers inventory every object into our current database systems. This will help us search by subject heading, donors, related people, and historic publications. This will also allow us to discontinue using our reference cards in favor of a more streamlined and precise information locator. Our team has uncovered many things we have forgotten. The best is to come in the next couple of years as we bring out new collections and exhibits never previously seen.

Since my arrival six months ago, I have had many conversations with many patrons and members about what they would like to see come to the museum. Many of them requested a much larger Crinoids exhibit, the old library stacks opened for a closer glimpse of Hypatia, and much more. By cleaning up our collections, we are able to

uncover new exhibit spaces for the public and more diverse content to connect with the community. If you have family histories and unique artifacts pertaining to Des Moines County, we encourage you to submit them to our collections committee, which will meet February 16, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. Our website has the forms to facilitate your submission.

If you are interested in donating to our museum, we have a 2023 Capital Campaign with endowments and naming opportunities for the various exhibit spaces we have throughout the Heritage Center and Garrett-Phelps House. This pamphlet has been sent out to all past and present members and is available on our website or when you visit us at the front door. A gift in your will or living trust is one of the most effective ways to provide for DMCHS' future and allows you to retain your assets during your lifetime. In addition, your estate may benefit from a charitable estate tax deduction. The gift may be easily included in your will when it is written, or it may be added through a simple codicil or amendment. You may wish to leave DMCHS a stated dollar amount, a percentage of your residual estate, or a specific asset, such as securities or other marketable property. Your gift will help us in exhibit construction, collection preservation, and program support.

On February 1st, 2023, we will reopen to the public with a grand reopening and refreshments. Even better, our staff and I will assist patrons who are interested in signing up for the various programs we have to offer at the Heritage Center, Garrett-Phelps House, and Log Cabin. Please see the Upcoming Events page in this newsletter for what we are offering.

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

Upcoming Events

Town Hall Lectures

First Saturday of Every Month

12 to 3 pm

Every first Saturday of the month, the Heritage Center will host a speaker, historian, or lecturer to give a presentation to the community about a particular topic related to Burlington or Des Moines County. This program will typically be free for patrons; the only time admission is charged for this program is for *special* lectures. Each participating patron will get a sticker from our museum staff that allows free admission all day at the Heritage Center. Please use the Columbia Street door (with the blue awning). Doors open at 11:45.

Miss Lilly's Story Time for Toddlers

February 18, March 25, and April 22

10:00 am

This program is hosted by the Burlington Public Library and is free to families who participate in story times, activities, and playtime in Catfish Corner. Each participating patron will get a sticker from our museum staff that allows them free admission all day at the Heritage Center.

Sounds of the Past

February 11

10 to 12 pm

Colton Neely, Executive Director, will be performing ragtime tunes on the historic Martin Bruhl Steinway Piano in the main atrium. Patrons are required to pay general admission and will have a chance to wander the Heritage Center, make requests to the pianist for reproduction sheet music published in Des Moines County, and hear live demonstrations of various musical devices within our new Burlington Music Exhibit.

Sister Susie's Sewing Club

Every Tuesday from February 7 through May 16

9 to 11 am

This club gathers local sewing and quilting professionals, hobbyists, and amateurs in social collaboration by using donated thread and fabric to create materials by hand with antique sewing machines. You can register in person or by phone. Maximum capacity 14 participants.

Conservation Club

Every Wednesday from February 8 through May 3

9 to 11 am

Designed for young adults who are interested in the archival side of museum work, this club offers hands-on engagement with our artifacts in cleaning, restoration, documentation, research, and digitization. Maximum capacity 14 participants.

Cost \$45 per person

Tea for Lunch

March 21, April 18, May 16, June 20, July 18, August 15, and September 19

Luncheon

Tea for Lunch is a grand social gathering in the Garrett-Phelps House dining room. A variety of hors d'oeuvres and meal suitable for the era will be served. Maximum capacity 12 participants.

Cost \$25 each per person

Teen Curators

March 11, April 8, May 13 & 27, June 10 & 24

Starting at 2 pm

This Saturday program is for teenagers (ages 15–19) who will work as a team with the Executive Director in building an exhibit for the museum. This program is for teens who aspire to work in the museum field and learn key research techniques, exhibit development, and exhibit fabrication. See the Heritage Center Calendar or website for fall dates and sign-ups. Maximum capacity 15 participants.

Cost \$45 per person

Heritage Center Kids Camp (Ages 7 - 12)

July 24 - 28

10 - 11:30 am

This summer program is full of STEM and STEAM-related activities with kids learning about fossils, flying machines, and more by playing games, creating art, and science experiments at the Heritage Center. Includes field trips to the Garrett-Phelps House and Crapo Park Log Cabin. Maximum capacity 14 participants.

Cost \$75 each per person

Taste of the Holidays

December 5, 7, and 9

This holiday dinner at the Garrett-Phelps house hosts up to 12 people per night. The night will start off in the library, where our volunteers will serve wine and refreshments. Light hors d'oeuvres will be served while guests socialize in the back parlor. When dinner is ready to be served, our interpreters will guide guests to be seated in the dining rooms. As dinner is being served, our historians will give a presentation of the Garrett-Phelps house and family heritage. This holiday dinner experience is a beloved tradition in the community hosted by the Des Moines County Historical Society.

Become a Volunteer

This autumn proved to be one of the busiest and most exciting times for the Des Moines County Historical Society. It won't be long before a new season of American Queen and Viking dockings will be starting up, and volunteers are needed more than ever to help us provide the best experience to those coming to Burlington.

Volunteers are always needed to help catalog and preserve artifacts, prepare exhibits, and maintain our facilities. Please talk to any of our staff about all the opportunities.

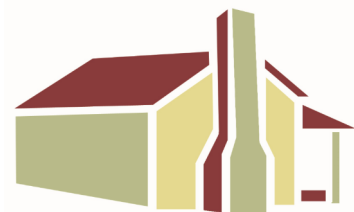
Des Moines County Historical Society Board Members

Megan Brincks
Martha Clyde
Terri Dowell
Michael Herron
Paula Logan
Don Weiss

Forest Gahn, Honorary Board Member

2023-24 Officers

PresidentDon Weiss
Vice PresidentPaula Logan
TreasurerTerri Dowell
SecretaryMegan Brincks



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Out of the Collection

By Colton Neely

While sorting our collection for new exhibit spaces, we came across various objects that still surprise us to this day. Object #75.14 is an example of one of those objects that will be displayed in our upcoming Cabinet of Curiosities. During the 1920s and 1930s, dozens of employees at the Schramm & Schmeig Manufacturing Company used this object as a carousel time punch clock. This advanced clock mechanism is housed in an oak cabinet measuring 16" x 18" x 35" and was converted from pneumatic to electric movement in the 1940s. In the front of the clock face is a large cast iron wheel with a revolving punch. During an employee's career, they were assigned a specific number listed on the wheel. When an employee reported to work or left a shift, they would spin the dial to their employee number and punch it until it rang a bell. The clock mechanism would process that specific time internally and transcribe the times onto a piece of rolled paper. This would be similar to a player piano playing off a paper roll.

Schramm & Schmeig Mfg. Co. was a wholesale dry goods firm located first at 110 N. Main, then at 201-205 N. 3rd. The Schramm & Schmeig Manufacturing Company was a historically important grocery and dry goods store that dates back to its establishment in 1844. Later, they moved to a larger location in 1884 to 218-220 Jefferson Street, where it stayed until 1997 when it closed. The Schramm Company was recognized as the oldest retail establishment west of the Mississippi River. Our time clock was purchased during the 1970s by Arthur Nelson, and it was reported at the time that the clock was still in working condition. It did, however, run out of punch paper, which was noted and found amusing. The object was later

donated by the family and was delivered by Arthur Nelson's son, Edward Nelson, to the Des Moines County Historical Society in 1975.



Donations & Memberships

Names are for receipts dated from the 15th through the 15th of each month.

In Memory of	Doc Van Winkle	Mary Ann Rhode	Thelma Odell	Suzanne Brueck
William and Martha	Olive Sullivan	Jerry & Lois Rigdon	Dan & Lois Clark	Larry Ramer
Pratt	Larry Ramer	Thornton & Betty Stanley	Donald Lippert	Jerry & Debbie Jochims
Jeff & Cindy Heland	Sandra Allgood	Bob Boyle	Andy & Joyce Chouinard	Gail Sullivan
	Lois Close	Judy Johnson	Lori Cox	Olive Sullivan
Linda Hale	Diane Callaway	Greg Miller	Rose Miller	Gretchen Walls
Kaye Hanna	Barb Bonnett	Roger Hatteberg	Rod Reeves	Lois Close
	David & Berit Hoelzen	Rebecca Vorkapich	Christine Walter	Carolyn Nelson
Keith & Joan Foley	Gary & Carol Brotherson	Jeff & Cathy Rucker	Donald Kellar	Gary & Jane Brandt
Robin & Kathy Thomas	Dave Sheridan	Scott & Joanie Power	Kaye Hanna	Greg Weingart
	Louise Hemphill	Heather Hermann	Jeffrey & Joyce Taeger	Alan & Cyndy Fabel
Elaine Baxter	Laurie Lata	Barry & Terri Dowell		Jerry & Lois Rigdon
Art & Kathy (Baxter)	Herbert Price	Richard Lind	Donations	Greg Miller
Anderson	Marcia Stiefel	Dennis Wilson	Russell Fry	Judy Johnson
	Mary Niehaus	Patrick & Pam Hazell	John & Mary Disselhorst	Dwight & Sue Mulch
Memberships	Sherman Lundy	Carolyn Nelson	Sherman & Beverly Lundy	Richard Lind
Rosemary Witte	Cdr. Vernon Meierotto	William Patterson	LaVon & Judy Worley	Don & Lori Weiss
Scott & Cathy Hazell	Wayne & Kiara Gerdes	Keith Schulz	Margie Zeran	Robin & Kathy Thomas
Dan & Kathy Cahill	Anita Vantiger	Ann Disselhorst	Scott & Cathy Hazell	

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)

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Museum Hours

Heritage Museum: Open Tuesday through Friday from 10 to 4 pm and Saturday from 10 to 3 pm.

Garrett-Phelps House & Crapo Park Log Cabin: Closed for the season.

Updates will be posted through Facebook, email and our webpage: www.dmchs.org.