



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. 3

NEWSLETTER

March 2023

From the Executive Director

by Colton Neely

At the Des Moines County Historical Society, we started the year off with a bang on February 1st with our grand reopening after being closed for the entire month of January. With your donations and support, we thrive on educating and entertaining the community about Des Moines County history. On our first day open to the public again, we saw a lot of new faces who were excited to see the exhibits for the first time. We encountered many new patrons who had not been through our doors in years and were positively amazed by our recent changes. Lastly, we saw many familiar faces greeting old friends and chatting over scones and coffee we provided. Since then, we have seen a steady crowd of families in our Heritage Center enjoying our new programs and talking with staff about our ongoing exhibit projects. Revamping our collections is still going strong, and we are incredibly grateful for volunteers LaVon Worley, Sue French, and Diane Sweden for working in the stacks. All three volunteers have been meticulously categorizing objects on shelves for easy identification. LaVon Worley and Kay Swanson have been recording our blue card references into an online database for easy object referencing and biographic information. If you are enthusiastic about being a part of the collection, please contact Kay or me for information. Every little bit of help counts and moves us closer to the completion of these difficult tasks.

If you have not been to the museum or website lately, check out our new activities on our 2023 program and event calendar. Our diverse programs, activities, and events are now open for public engagement.

Lately, we had several successful programs that patrons like you have been attending. Catfish Corner was packed with families for Miss Lilly's Story Time. The Burlington Public Library is hosting this event in memory

of long-term youth services librarian Miss Elizabeth Lilly. Our visiting librarian enticed our crowd of young museum goers with stories and activities. We were delighted to see our young patrons return and hope to see them again on March 25th, 2023, at 10 am for our next story time.

Our next program that brought a nice crowd was my *Sounds of the Past* event, where I played music selected from passing visitors. Originally, it was a casual event for music enthusiasts to hear tunes from past Iowa publications. After a few melodies, however, a crowd managed to locate some chairs and gathered around the piano as I told stories about several renowned Iowa composers. Come and join us for our next performance on March 18th at 10 am for the next round of musical scores.

Another event starting March 3 -12, 2023 is Leopold Week hosted by the Aldo Leopold Foundation. The Leopold Foundation will host online presentations and invite folks to tune in and listen to guest speakers and representatives as they talk about land ethics and values. You may register by visiting www.aldoleopold.org. Authors attending will be Robin Wall Kimmerer, author of the book *Braiding Sweetgrass*, and Delia Owens, author of *Where the Crawdads Sing*. We also have an exhibit currently on display at DMCHS on Aldo Leopold's land ethics.

Lastly, if you were a fan of the Christmas dinners at the Garrett-Phelps House, you will like our monthly tea luncheon called *Tea for Lunch*. This seats up to 12 people in the Garrett-Phelps Dining Room and will serve three rounds of dishes that contain scones, savory items, and sweets. This will be at 1 pm on the third Tuesday of every month for \$25 per person. Contact Kay or myself at the Heritage Center for your required reservation, and a ticket will be sent to you by mail or in person at the museum.

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 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.

Sister Susie's Sewing Club Every Tuesday 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 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

1 pm

Tea for Lunch is a grand social gathering in the Garrett-Phelps House dining room. Scones, Savories & Sweets will be served. Maximum capacity 12 participants.

Cost \$25 per person

Manitou Rocks - Native Spirit Stones March 29 at the Burlington Public Library

6:30 pm

Herman Bender, Historian, will present on the subject of Manitou Rocks or Native Spirit Stones and incorporate Black Hawk Rock into his lecture.

Free

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.

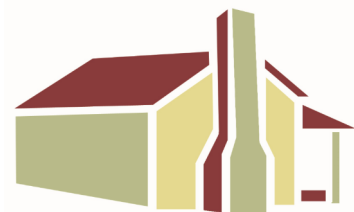
Des Moines County Historical Society Board Members

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



Offices located at Heritage Museum
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Voice: 319-752-7449 FAX: 319-753-2449
dmchs@dmchs.org

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Out of the Collection

By Colton Neely

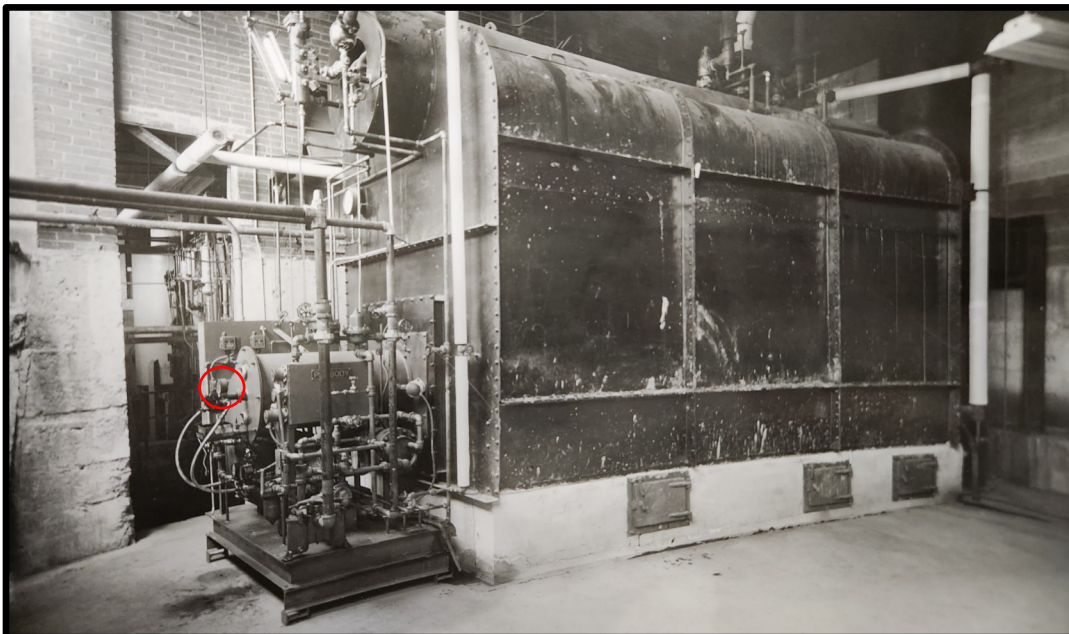
Object No# 05.450.27

This month's object found in the collections was found in the Jim Ewinger pressure gauge collection here at DMCHS. Object 05.450.27 was given to us as a part of a bulk collection of 300+ steam, pneumatic, and vacuum gauges sourced from several locations around Des Moines County in 2005. This particular gauge is one of various gauges salvaged from the now-demolished Murray Iron Works here in Burlington, Iowa. This vacuum pressure gauge measures 7 1/2" and is made of soldered cast steel with brass fittings and a port glass window. As you can see, the arrow is resting on the number zero and, if still functioning, would have balanced negative and positive pressures on a machine within the workshop. The photo below could potentially be a similar gauge on a steam engine or turbine from inside the Murray Iron Works warehouse. You may have to look hard, but the round disc proudly sits in front of this engine for an engineer or fireman to carefully watch while tending to the machine as it runs smoothly.

Murray Iron Works was founded in 1870 from Charles Hendrie's foundry and grew rapidly over the next decade. In no community does machinery have a better reputation than in Burlington with the products of the Murray Iron



Works. At one time, it was the second-largest employer in Burlington, with around 500 workers. Only the CB&Q Railroad, which employed 600 people, and the furniture store, Chittenden & Eastman, with 250 people, were larger. Many still remember the warehouse in full operation, developing engines and tools, and many also remember the day the doors closed and buildings demolished. DMCHS has a historic archive of not just gauges but a near-complete history of the Murray Iron Works.



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Donations & Memberships

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

In Memory of	David Meth	LaDel Hoyle	Terry Strother	Robert & Cheryl Nelson
	Jon Honsey		Rick & Betty Vierling	Bonnie Downes
William & Martha	Jack Broeg	Donations	Cindy Henry	Doug & Heather Beckman
Pratt	Janet Van Winkle	Henry Hentzel	Christina Cowles	Tim & Suzie Johnson
Jeff Heland	Kevin Johnson	Mary Graham	Jerry & Debbie Jochims	Burton & Joanne Prugh
	Martha Williams	Barb Bonnett	Robert & Robbin Ahrold	Randall Bloomberg
Lindsey Cox Schier	Donald Kellar	Mark Brugge	Tim Hutchins	Jim & Pam Farr
Jason & Mary Ellen Cox	Craig Voelker		Russ & Annette	Jim & Mary Priebe
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Ilene Frank	Dale Vickstrom	Russ Fry	Don & Lori Weiss	
Frank Warren	Ronald Phillips	Fred Wetzel	Chris & Diane Jennings	
Barb Bonnett	Charles Sullivan	Ned Fry	Dan & Sherri Hutchcroft	
Donna Logan	Diane Sweeden	Jeff Heland	David & Susan Beckman	
Terry Abrisz	Gretchen Walls	LaVon & Judy Worley	Karla Mundt	
Mary Honsey	Edward Terhune	Memberships	Kathy Geren	
Cynthia Brown	Mary Rae Schnedler	Mona R. Smith	Matt Murray	
LaVon & Judy Worley	Lois Close	Jason & Mary Ellen Cox	Dave & Linda Riley	
Doris Van Winkle	Karla Mundt	Gary & Jane Brandt	Henry & Sue Ann Hentzel	
Carolyn Dorting	Dana Hummel	Mark Brugge	Sarah Kerby	

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.