



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. 11

NEWSLETTER

November 2023

From the Executive Director

by Colton Neely

Riverboat season has now ended, and I want to thank all of the volunteers and staff who helped engage and escort our Viking Mississippi and American Queen guests around Burlington. Our museums were packed to the brim with people from all over the country and all over the world. We were ecstatic to have them be a part of the Heritage Center and Garrett-Phelps House, and we look forward to them returning in the summer and fall of 2024!

This month's newsletter will cover a variety of topics and reminders from October through November. On October 21st, at the Heritage Center, we had several events that brought in crowds of people. I provided a lecture-based concert on the history of funeral marches, death marches, disaster music, tearjerkers, and other morbid melodies our ancestors were familiar with. During this program, we served two historic funeral pies and funeral cookies similar to those made in the mid-victorian era. People were laughing and tearing up with joy over the music that croaked out of the Martin Bruhl piano.

We also continued the concert until October 26, 27, and 28 for a few hours, and then continued to host a Burlington Public Library Halloween story time for our museum families. Halloween is a popular holiday for families in museums, and if you would like to volunteer next year for our programs, please feel free to contact me.

Another program we wrapped up was our monthly teas at the Garrett-Phelps House. I want to thank our volunteers and staff for taking the time, collaborating, and

executing this historic recreation in our house's dining room. Reservations will be open in 2024 for next year's tea. Similar to the teas, we are now fully booked this year for the Christmas dinners and will not be opening up for more nights.

As of November, we will not be having a Sounds of the Past Piano Program due to my needing to go home for the holidays. Both the Heritage Center and Garrett-Phelps House will be closed Thanksgiving Day and Black Friday so our staff and volunteers can be with their families.

Around this time of the year, the Iowa Museum Association puts out a theme for all of Iowa's museums to govern their events and programming. In 2024, the theme is "Power of Place", and we will be developing our programming and events around this topic. The power of place could be interpreted in a variety of ways. When I think of the term power of place, I think of Black Hawk Springs as a key survival source of fresh drinking water that benefited Indigenous travelers and early Des Moines County Settlers.

We will be constructing a calendar of programming for 2024, and if you are interested in giving a lecture based on our theme, please consult with me at 319-752-7449 or at coltonn@dmchs.org.

On behalf of the Des Moines County Historical Society, we thank you for all your support through your donations!

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.

Taste of the Holidays December 2, 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. Note that due to heavy demand, only a limited number of seats are available, and some dates are now full. Please call Kay at 319-752-7449 to make your reservation.

Hotel Burlington Orange Rolls

Mix the zest of two oranges with 1 cup sugar and let it stand for 12 hours. Roll dough (see roll recipe below) like jelly rolls, spread with soft butter and orange sugar, cut into 1 inch slices, put in a pan, and let rise. Bake at 360 degrees for 10 minutes.

Glaze: ½ cup white Karo syrup, 1 cup sugar, and ½ cup hot (boiling) water. Boil for a few minutes. Add the rind of one orange, grated, and the juice of one orange. Let stand. It would be best if you made it the day before. Put orange glaze on rolls just after taking them from the oven and returning them to the oven for 2–3 minutes.

Ingredients

1 package rapid rise yeast - maximum temperature of 115 degrees on the warm water.
1 cup mashed potatoes
1 ¼ cup warm water
⅔ cup sugar
1 tsp. salt
⅔ cup Crisco
2 beaten eggs
5 - 5 ½ cups flour

Directions

Prepare the package of yeast in ¼ cup of warm water and 1 tsp. sugar. Set the yeast aside and let it activate. Put sugar, Crisco, and salt in the mixing bowl, then add the instant mashed potatoes that are dissolved in ¾ cup of hot water. When the mixture reaches 115 degrees, add the beaten eggs, the yeast, and the flour. Keep the dough sticky and refrigerate until cool.

Memorial Brick Garden

Outside of the Heritage Museum, many of you remember our memorial brick garden. The bricks are the perfect way to show your support of the museums, memorialize or honor a family, or mark a special occasion.

Each donation of \$150 per 4" x 8" India red granite brick will include a maximum of two lines of 15 characters each. Spaces between words count as characters. The opportunity also exists for donors of \$1,000 or more to be recognized with a special, light gray granite brick.

Making a gift will last beyond a lifetime and will be a stepping stone towards the history and future of the Des Moines County Historical Society and our three historical locations.

For more information on adding your engraved brick, please our website at www.dmchs.org for a request form, or contact me at coltonn@dmchs.org or 319-752-7449, and I will be happy to help. Currently, we have one in process and need a total of 10 to start the additional engraving process. Sign up today to have your name added to the outdoor classroom and picnic space!

A Gift in Your Will or Living Trust

A gift in your will or living trust is one of the most effective ways to provide for the future of DMCHS 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 (what remains after debts, taxes and specific bequests have been made); or a specific asset, such as securities or other marketable property.

It can be as simple as adding the following language to your last will and testament: *"I give and bequeath to the Des Moines County Historical Society, presently of 501 N 4th Street, Burlington, IA 52601, the sum of \$___ to be used for its general support."*

For further information, contact Colton Neely, Executive Director, by phone at 319-752-7449.

Become a Volunteer

Even as summer winds down, this fall will be one of the busiest and most exciting times for the Des Moines County Historical Society.

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.

Board Members

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

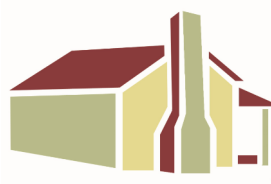
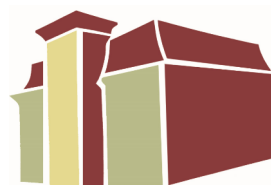
Forest Gahn, Honorary Board Member

2023-24 Officers

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Vice President.....Paula Logan
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SecretaryMegan Brincks

DMCHS Staff

Executive DirectorColton Neely
Museum AssistantKay Swanson



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Out of the Collection

By Colton Neely

Hotel Burlington at 206 N 3rd Street was a hotspot of local activity, events, and business for travelers and community members. The Hotel Burlington (1910-11) stands in the heart of the central business district located in the Hawkeye Creek Valley. Built as the tallest building in town, the hotel dominated the scene from the surrounding hills and all directions of travel. It is still the largest building downtown. The electric sign on top of the building and the new system of street lights made the building highly visible even at night. The hotel was designed in the Renaissance style, with major facades on Third and Valley (west and south-facing). The design was for a seven-story building in a "U" plan above a two-story main block. The major facades were built to seven stories in an "L" plan during 1910-11. The east wing, which runs along the alley and completes the "U"-shaped design, was constructed in 1923. Expansion in 1931 increased the height to nine stories.

Construction of Hotel Burlington was the grand culmination of an effort to create a visual and commercial hub for downtown. As a manufacturing town, Burlington grew up as a center for commercial travelers. Burlington businessmen had spent several years planning for the hotel, and financing the hotel entirely with local money

was a benchmark in Burlington's effort to remain a leading commercial city in Iowa. The hotel project was necessary to maintain and strengthen the business ties between travelers and local manufacturing, wholesale, and retail concerns, as well as provide for convention and tourist use. The hotel was so popular and heavily used that it had to be expanded twice, with the projects following and utilizing the original design. A change in economic and traffic patterns had created the need for this facility. It became the largest, most luxurious, and the last hotel constructed in Burlington due to further changes in traffic and commercial patterns.

Recently added to our collection was a long-missing recipe from a bakery in the Hotel Burlington everyone was nostalgic over. When the hotel foreclosed in the 1980's, recipe ownership was transferred to Ilene Frank and her peers. See page 2 for the recipe, and tell us if you like it.

Information courtesy of Steve Brower, local historian who helped make Hotel Burlington part of the National Register of Historic Places. Source: United States Department of the Interior; National Park Service: OMB No. 1024-0018.



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

Donations & Memberships

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

<p>In Memory of William and Martha Pratt Jeff Heland</p> <p>Donations: Pat Mayle-Blackhawk Rock John Wauters-Blackhawk Rock Lillian Rubin-Building Project John Disselhorst-Building Project EvaAnn Elmer-Blackhawk Rock Anonymous-Phelps Porch-In Honor of Mary Eipert</p> <p>Memberships: Terry and Martha Colgan-Reis Al and Pat Bowman Kathy Mundt-Shriver Marilyn Demijan</p>	<p>Lyn Stinson David and Linda Hall Ann Menke Eric Benne Steve Preader Ryan Oleson Joe and Crystal Jolin Ryan Kruse John and Mary Disselhorst Charles Jahn James Richardson Gena Parsons TJ Werner Charlie Walsh Steve Francis Dave Hook Taylor Wilkerson Randy Hook Jason Leibli Alec Cornick Jason Hutcheson</p>	<p>Nick MacGregor Lorenzo Watkins Ed Prill Blake Beckman John Wiberg Kevin Carr Jacon Scheitlin Cody VanFleet John Jolin Craig and Julie Smith Chuck Brockett Javier Rodriguez Michael Yost Brandon Upton Jeremy Hartman Heath Hillyard Scott Leinbach Bill Malcom Kelly Edmonds Dave Hanan Mike Moroney</p>	<p>Josh Schuff Jacob Nye Thomas Schelich Dave Strabala Stacey Robinson Katie Cale Ryan Harris Jeremiah Brown KC Fleming Tricia Langened Gina Crabtree Crystal Bivens Dave Edwards Mike Baker Monte Hagge Don Sheedy Zach Hill Joyce Kuster Jan and Donna Logan Jim and Ann Hoffman</p>
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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 _____

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: Open Sunday from 1 to 4 pm.

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