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.

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**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
- ¾ cup sugar
- 1 tsp. salt
- ¾ 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.
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.


Out of the Collection

By Colton Neely
Donations & Memberships
Names are for receipts dated from the 15th through the 15th of each month.

In Memory of
William and Martha Pratt
   Jeff Heland
Donations:
   Pat Mayle-Blackhawk Rock
   John Wauters-Blackhawk Rock
   Lillian Rubin-Building Project
   John Disselhorst-Building Project
   EvaAnn Elmer-Blackhawk Rock
   Anonymous-Porch In Honor of Mary Eipert
Memberships:
   Terry and Martha Colgan-Reis
   Al and Pat Bowman
   Kathy Mundt-Shriver
   Marilyn Demijan
   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
   Nick MacGregor
   Lorenzo Watkins
   Ed Prill
   Blake Beckman
   John Wiberg
   Kevin Carr
   Jacob Scheitlin
   Cody VanFleet
   John Jolin
   Craig and Julie Smith
   Cherie Johnson
   Ed Prill
   Randy Hook
   Jason Leibli
   Alec Cornick
   Jason Hutcheson
   Bill Malcom
   Kelly Edmonds
   Mike Hanan
   Mike Moroney
   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

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

__________________________________________________________________________

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

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