



From the Executive Director

by Colton Neely

It is nice to see the leaves changing to shades of yellow and orange in parts of Des Moines County. Although the river is getting lower and Viking Mississippi Riverboat days could potentially change in accordance with river levels, We are delighted to see all the guests making it to our beloved city. Furthermore, we are lucky to have this beautiful weather.

The month of September was extremely busy and extremely rewarding as we continued working on the library exhibit in the Old Burlington Library Stacks. Our dedicated staff, including Kay Swanson, Cora Wickham, Jarod Shaffer, and myself, took on the laborious task of stripping and scraping the floor in the Library Stacks Room. Why, may you ask? The floors in the room were hand-inlay marble trim and fragmented shell Terrazzo covered by 100+ years of floor wax. Earlier, I stripped a chunk of the floor to see the difference between wax and no wax. The results were shocking, as you can see in the photo down the center aisle. In the middle of the room, there are two marble rectangles that were not noticeable before the stripping. The wax was so thick that standard conventional floor scrubbers could not penetrate the floor—but polished it, of course!

This resulted in all of us hand scraping bit by bit, revealing the new white and gray floor that now glows during the day. With a few more coats of polish towards the end, the floor will have a new high-gloss finish! Come to the museum to see firsthand the ongoing restoration process of the room! If you would like to help in the exhibit building process or have a unique story or involvement with the Old Library Building, please contact me! The

exhibit is sent for completion on February 3, 2023.

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. 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 visit 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 three 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.

Upcoming Events

Sounds of the Past

October 21

10 to 12 pm

Executive Director, Colton Neely, will be performing Undertaking and Funeral Marches on the historic Martin Bruhl piano in the atrium of the Heritage Center. As a special treat, funeral pie samples and other funeral goods will be provided. This program is free for patrons. Please use the Fourth Street door (main entrance at the top of the ramp on the west side). Doors open at 9:45.

Halloween at the Museum

October 26, 27, 28

12 to 3 pm

Executive Director, Colton Neely, will be performing Undertaking and Funeral Marches on the historic Martin Bruhl piano in the atrium of the Heritage Center, but without the commentary lecture. As a special treat, Halloween goodies will be provided. This program is free for patrons.

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.

Tea for Lunch

Call for Available Dates

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

Funeral Pie

Circa 1887

Ingredients:

- Store-bought or homemade pie dough, enough for a 9-inch, double-crust pie
- 4 cups raisins •4 cups water •1 cup packed brown sugar
- 4 tablespoons cornstarch •1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon salt •2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons butter •2 teaspoons grated lemon zest

Instructions:

1. Soak the raisins in the water for 30 minutes.
2. Preheat the oven to 425° F (220° C). Pour the raisins and water into a large saucepan and bring to a boil. Cook for about five minutes.
3. In a medium bowl, mix the brown sugar, cornstarch, cinnamon, and salt. Add the mixture to the saucepan with the raisins. Cook over medium heat and stir until the mixture has thickened, about 10 to 15 minutes.
4. Remove from the heat, and stir in the lemon juice, zest, and butter. Set aside to cool.
5. Line a 9-inch pie pan with one sheet of the prepared pastry and pour the cooled filling inside.
6. With a sharp knife, slice the other sheet of pastry into strips, about an inch in width. Carefully lace the strips together into a lattice, and lay atop the pie, pinching the edges of the crust together and discarding any overhang.
7. Set pie on a cookie sheet and bake for 30 to 35 minutes until the crust is golden brown.

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.

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!

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

- PresidentDon Weiss
- Vice President.....Paula Logan
- TreasurerTerri Dowell
- SecretaryMegan Brincks

DMCHS Staff

- Executive DirectorColton Neely
- Museum AssistantKay Swanson



Offices located at Heritage Museum
501 N 4th Street Burlington, IA 52601
Voice: 319-752-7449 FAX: 319-753-2449
dmchs@dmchs.org

Out of the Collection

By Colton Neely

As a museum, one of the things we collect are historic photos of Des Moines County. We do this because it provides insight into life, people, and events in the past. In our photo media collection, there are some more prolific themes than others, such as railroad history and life on Jefferson Street. While browsing our photo collection under the subheading “Railroad Accidents”, we discovered two photos of a serious accident outside the Murray Iron Works on February 26, 1938.

Courtesy of local historian Dan Bied, who left the museum with a synopsis of what exactly happened during this tragedy. Normally, at this time, the West Burlington shops didn't work on Saturdays, except on this particular day of February 26, 1938. Since they were shut down prior to this day for Washington's birthday, these men needed to catch up on chores that should have been done. The men, most of them dirty and tired by the end of the day, all filed into the four coaches of a “Shop Train”, which carried them back to Union Depot from the West Burlington Shops and back. On this day, the shop train did not make it back. Five men were killed and seven were critically injured when the eastbound freight train No. 68 piled into the rear of a slow-moving commuter shop train. The red coaches were split wide open, caved into one another (also referred to as telescoping), and passengers in the rear car jumped and were thrown 500 feet east of the overhead bridge east of the Murray Iron Works Foundry.

Yells, screams, and whistles pierced the late afternoon air. Then thundering, grinding, and crashing as three cars telescoped. Spears of wood were crunched together like the

bellows of an accordion. Then a few moments of silence, followed by calls for help and crying.

People who witnessed the crash, or who were a part of the crash, were recognized as heroes for helping the injured and dying. It was estimated the freight train was clocking 40 to 45 miles per hour when the big crash occurred. Roy E. Robinson, a railroad pipefitter, stated, “Everybody was tired after a day of hard work. We were looking for a restful weekend. It was a terrible thing to see the injured and dead those first few minutes after the crash”. Those killed in the accident were James E. Cowger, Walter Whitford, David Neder, William J. Cook, and Otto



Langer. Their rites were held Tuesday, so railroad co-workers and other mourners could attend one service and then another during what was, in the words of The Hawk-Eye Gazette, “one of Burlington's saddest days.” Of course, the railroad shops were closed during the funerals, but the next day everyone resumed work, all bandaged up and with cinder scars on their legs, arms, and faces, showing a true testament to how tough railroad workers are and making sure future accidents can be avoided.

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:
Annette Kuhlemeier
LaVon Worley

Memberships:
Elaine Eisenmann
Mike and Connie Hinson
Samantha Hellberg and Seth Garrett
Kathy Murphy
Vicky Summerson
Pauline Lowther
Carole Halicki
LaVon and Judy Worley
Darwin and Paulette Nichols
John and Donna Carlson
Stephen and Dianna Burden

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, at 319-752-7449.

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



DES MOINES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

501 N 4th Street
Burlington, IA 52601
Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Burlington, IA 52601
Permit No. 568



What's inside this issue

<i>From the Executive Director</i>	1
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	2
<i>Become a Volunteer</i>	3
<i>Memorial Brick Garden</i>	3
<i>Out of the Collection</i>	4
<i>Donations & Memberships</i>	5

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.