



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. 12

# NEWSLETTER

December 2023

## From the Executive Director

by Colton Overton

The Des Moines County Historical Society would like to express a warm happy holidays to all our patrons, volunteers, staff, and board members. We wish safe travels to families coming into our beloved historic county and safe travels to those who leave to visit with other families! We were extremely fortunate to have such unusually warm weather than normal, making roads safe for the holidays.

While families are together giving gifts and eating lots of food, I have conjured a surprise in the Bart Howard Lounge. Over a decade ago, several organizations and Bud Fowler, Bart Howard's spouse, funded a room in the Heritage Museum dedicated to the late Bart Howard, composer of the hit, "Fly Me to the Moon." After many parties, fundraisers, meetings, and fairs, the room became dated and damaged. Thanks to the Harry and Virginia Murray Foundation, we acquired a grant to help restore the room to the true "Fly Me to the Moon" experience. We have been patching cracked drywall, painting, installing new lighting, stage effects, laser ceiling projections, and updating exhibits on Bart Howard's story. The lower half of the museum is closed until renovations are completed in early December. When reopened, we will introduce the exhibit with a ribbon cutting and a silent auction.

A key feature of the exhibit worth noting is that during daytime hours, the room will be a walk-in, open exhibit with display cases around the room, a monthly rotating sheet music collection featuring Bart Howard's manuscripts, laser projections of shooting stars and a moon on the ceiling, a dance floor, and background music. Then for events, our staff will relocate display cases and dress the room in Blue Angel style for performances, cocktail hour, and celebrations, all to enhance the Bart

Howard music experience for our patrons and guests! Stay tuned for more information in local newspapers, newsletters, websites, and social media.

I also would like to thank the Harry and Virginia Murray Foundation for working with me to donate \$25,000 to the Des Moines County Historical Society. With this money, we are able to restructure the Garrett-Phelps House Basement with a new 15-foot steel beam, upgrade security systems in our museums, re-tuck point the tower in the front half of the Garrett-Phelps House that was causing water seepage into our Medical Memories Exhibit, install collapsible rolling shelves in our archive room, do Bart Howard Lounge/Exhibit Renovations mentioned earlier, and much more. We are ever thankful. With this money, our museums are upgraded through conservation work and programming. On behalf of the Board of the Des Moines County Historical Society and myself, we thank you for your contribution!

As for contributions, we will be sending out our annual appeal and 2024 capital campaign to our patrons and members. For us to continue in the preservation of Des Moines County history, we ask for generous gifts from you in order to keep our history alive!

Lastly, as mentioned in our previous newsletter, our 2024 programming theme is "Power of Place." Think about what power of place means to you. 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!

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

# Upcoming Events

## Sounds of the Past (Holiday Duds) December 16

10 to 12 pm

Executive Director, Colton Overton, will be performing holiday music that did not make the top hits on the historic Martin Bruhl piano in the atrium of the Heritage Center. As a music historian and avid sheet music collector, Colton Overton brings in rare copies of music, gives a general background history of each score, and plays them on the piano. This is a golden opportunity to hear music never played in public in over 100 years. 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.

## 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.

Note at the time, the dinner capacity is sold out.

## Making History at Home

One of the best ways to experience history for yourself is by looking at an old family cookbook. Every month, Des Moines County Historical Society staff scour the collections for a unique recipe for our patrons to add to their own recipe books. The family recipe book, object #03.132, is a collection of handwritten recipes from circa the 1850s. This book was given to the museum in 2003 by a family whose early English ancestors settled north of Kingsdon, Iowa. The book documented 30 years of recipes in a single-bound book. We chose a recipe we encourage you to try at home!

### Pumpkin Pudding (1858)

*“Take ¾ tablespoon Butter, 1 tablespoon sugar, 1 even glass of brandy, 1 ditto wine, 1 tablespoon mace, 3 dittos Cinnamon -Beat them all up like pound cake, adding 1 egg at a time unit you dump in 7 eggs - then take 1 quart of pumpkin after it is well steered and wibbed through a colander and well drained, 1 tea cup full of milk or cream.”*

### Note from a Historian

This recipe seems confusing, but fear not. In a time when supplies were low due to travel and money, the cook would have to improvise other cooking tools. Hence, use tea cups instead of measuring cups. I would also like to define what “**ditto**” means in cooking terms. Ditto simply refers to the unit of measure of the above line. Some recipes bunch up the ingredients by the size of the plate you need to pick them up. Hence, the ounces, gallons, and pounds are put together. Ditto means **whatever is above it**, whether that be a cup, a teaspoon, tablespoon, large, small, etc.

## 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](http://www.dmchs.org) for a request form, or contact me at [coltonn@dmchs.org](mailto:coltonn@dmchs.org) or 319-752-7449, and I will be happy to help. We need 6 more to meet the minimum 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

As the holidays approach, the coming year 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

President .....Don Weiss  
Vice President.....Paula Logan  
Treasurer .....Terri Dowell  
Secretary .....Megan Brincks

## DMCHS Staff

Executive Director .....Colton Neely  
Museum Assistant .....Kay Swanson  
Docent.....Cora Herman-Wicham  
Docent.....Jarod Shaffer  
Docent.....Amy Power



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

# Out of the Collection

By Colton Overton

Object #2013.347

*Battleship Iowa*

In 2013, the museum acquired a hand-carved ship approximately 4 inches deep, 15 ½ inches tall, and 22 inches wide, donated by Debbi Wilson of Delmar, Iowa. This hand-carved battleship, “Battleship Iowa”, was crafted out of pine by hobbyist Samuel Hunt, Jr., of Burlington, Iowa. This model was created in 1912 after the actual battleship USS Iowa (BB-4) and was hand painted gray, white, and black.

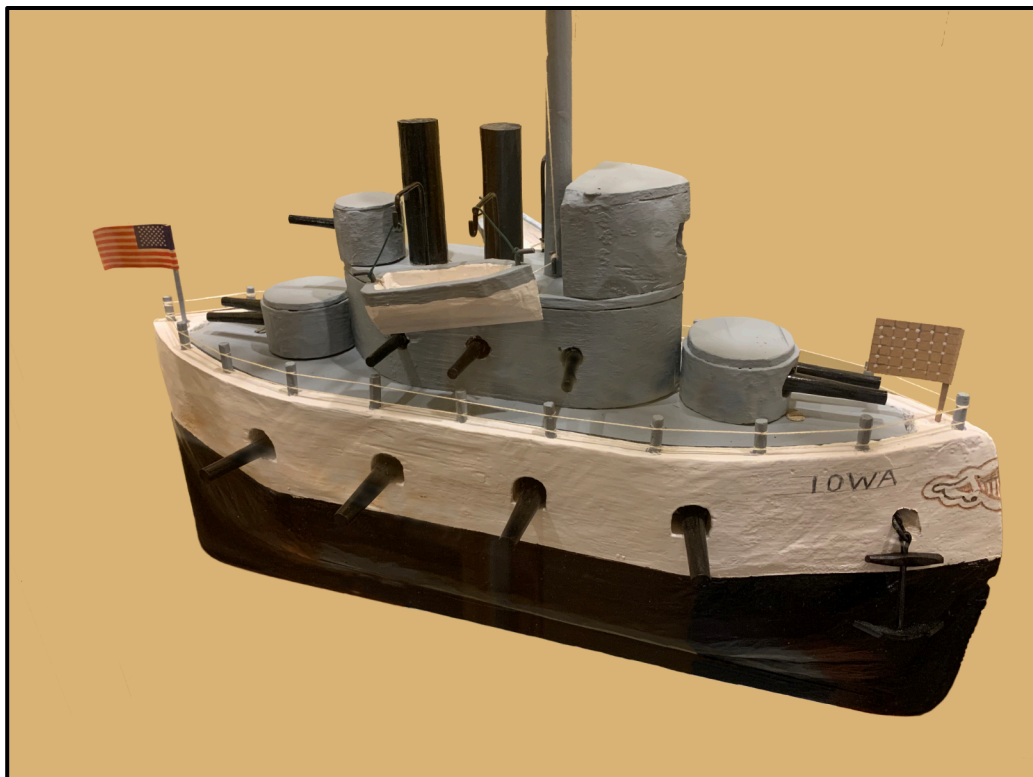
In 1985, the boat model was passed on to his nephew, Harold B. Hunt, and restored and mounted in a protective glass box that is 7 ½ deep, 17 ½ inches wide and 27 ¾ inches tall. The card mounted in the case states the following:

*This model of the Battleship Iowa was hand carved from a block of white pine. All small parts were shaped with a pocket knife by Samuel Hunt, jr. of Burlington, Iowa. It was started Jan. 12, 1912 and completed March 10, 1912.*

*The keel of the Battleship Iowa was laid in 1893 and was completed in 1895, Specifications were: length - 360', width - 72' 6", draft - 24', armor - 14" thick on sides and turrets, twin screw, engines - 11,000 H.P., speed - 16 knots, armament 4 - 12 ", 8 - 8", 4 - 4" rifles, displacement - 11,410 tons, cost - \$3,010,00, crew - 36 officers and 450 men.*

*She was in the Great White Fleet sent on a world cruise as a good will gesture by Teddy Roosevelt visiting all the major ports.*

*This model was restored Jan. 30, 1985 by Harold B. Hunt, nephew of Samuel.*



# Donations & Memberships

Names are for receipts dated from the 15<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

**In Memory of**  
**William and Martha Pratt**  
Jeff Heland

**Donations:**  
Roger Hatteberg  
Rob Ritson  
Virginia Murray Foundation  
Clyde Loftus Foundation

**Memberships:**  
Nancy Halls  
Dean & Sue Vickstrom  
Susan Randolph  
Daryl & Cynthia Brown  
Dee Stigge  
Sherman Lundy  
Suzanne Brueck  
Linda Coats

Bob & Diane Mansheim  
Mary Graham  
Carol Messer  
Ayesha Javed  
Forest Gahn  
Jim Hilkin & Judy Smithson  
Mary Fox

## 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

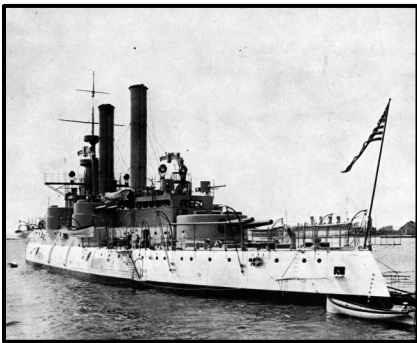
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USS Iowa. Halftone reproduction of a photograph taken in 1897 or early 1898, with USS Columbia (Cruiser # 12) in the right background. Published in Uncle Sam's Navy, 1898. U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command Photograph.

## 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: Please contact Heritage Center for private tours.

Updates will be posted through Facebook, email and our webpage: [www.dmchs.org](http://www.dmchs.org).