



## From the Executive Director

by Colton Overton

We would like to say thank you for all the support we received for the 2023 year at the Des Moines County Historical Society. Recently, we held our public annual meeting for which we received great attendance. I presented the 2023 museum statistics that our staff and volunteers have vigorously noted throughout the year. I am proud of the work that our staff and volunteers have committed to making sure our museums run as smoothly as a well-oiled machine. Below are some of our statistics for the 2023 year.

**Total 2023 Attendance = 9,740 patrons**

### Patron Breakdown

Adult Visitors.....	2,036
Children Visitors.....	696
Accounted Riverboat Visitors.....	7,008
Heritage Center Visitors.....	5,710
Garrett-Phelps House Visitors .....	3,709
Log Cabin Visitors .....	321
Programs, Educational Classes, Concerts Scheduled.....	134

As of January, 24,289 cards have been digitized into our museum cataloging software, PastPerfect. Note that this is a digital record of the collection. We are seeking

volunteers to catalog the physical location of artifacts so it can be recorded digitally. This ensures that searching our collections remains effective and time-efficient.

### Collection Statistics

Objects .....	20,559
Photos .....	1,343
Small Scale Archives.....	1,066
Printed Books .....	1,321

Again, I am proud of the hard work our staff and volunteers have contributed to our historic museum sites. Furthermore, I am deeply grateful for the level of detail they have provided me with the yearly statistics.

We are also grateful to you and our many patrons for generously donating to retire our roof loan debt. As we are debt-free, we can now concentrate on the other sites. In March, once we select a date, we will be hosting a loan payoff party and adopt-a-project fundraiser at the Heritage Center for our members and patrons who have been major supporters. Stay tuned for the next newsletter on the following date of the party!

Finally, if you are a snow-bird or summer-bird, please let us know your alternate address so that you may continue to receive our monthly newsletter. If you would prefer to receive this newsletter electronically, please make sure we have your correct email address.

# Upcoming Events

## Sounds of the Past

**February 17 (Valentine's Day Theme)**

**March 16**

**10 am to 12 pm**

Executive Director, Colton Overton, will be performing Valentine's Day related love music on the historic Martin Bruhl piano in the atrium of the Heritage Center. Please use the Fourth Street door (main entrance at the top of the ramp on the west side). Doors open at 9:45 am.

## Town Hall Lecture

**Saturday, February 3**

**11 am**

This lecture features local historian, author, and movie director Russ Fry who uncovers the story of Des Moines County involvement during the Civil War. Meet us in the Bart Howard Lounge at 11 am. Doors open at 10 am.

## Town Hall Lecture

**Saturday, March 2**

**11 am**

This lecture features DMCHS Executive Director Colton Overton in a new museum community project called "My Collections." My Collections is a project where selected community members bring in personal collections and talk about why they collect. Meet us in the Bart Howard Lounge at 11 am. Doors open at 10 am.

## Tea for Lunch

**Tuesday, February 20, March 19**

**1 pm**

Now accepting reservations for Tea for Lunch, a grand social gathering in the Garrett-Phelps House dining room. Scones, Savories & Sweets will be served. Maximum capacity 12 participants. Call to reserve your seat.

## SilverCord Walk-In

**Thursday, February 8, 15, 22, 29**

**Thursday, March 7, 14, 21, 28**

**4 - 6 pm**

All Silver Cord students are welcome to come to the museum if they need hours and do volunteer work with staff and peers.

## Miss Lily's Story Time

**Tuesday, February 6, 13, 20, 27**

**Tuesday, March 5, 12, 19, 26**

**10 am**

Kids story time for all ages upstairs at the Heritage Center Catfish Corner, elevator access is available.

## Historic Newspaper Reading

**Wednesday, February 7, 14, 21, 28**

**Wednesday, March 6, 13, 20, 27**

**10 - 11 am**

Historic Newspaper Readout in Bart Howard Lounge

### Making History at Home

One of the best ways to experience history for yourself is by looking at old family cookbooks. 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. Thanks to volunteer Barb Bonnett, who discovered a Phelps family recipe, here is one attributed to Katherine Phelps.

#### *Macaroni and Cheese Loaf*

- 1 cup Macaroni
- ½ lb. diced Cheese
- 1 ½ cup scalded Milk
- 1 cup soft Bread Crumbs
- ¼ cup melted Butter
- 1 chopped Pimento
- 1 tablespoon chopped Parsley
- 1 tablespoon chopped Onion
- Salt, Pepper, Paprika
- 3 Eggs - beaten

Cook macaroni, drain, melt cheese on top of double boiler. Gradually add milk, stirring instantly, add bread crumbs, butter, pimento, parsley and onion; season and add eggs. Fold in cooked macaroni. Pour into a greased 5 x 9 pan. Bake in a slow oven, 325 F. until firm – about 50 minutes.

Serve with tomato sauce. Serves 6.

## 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 winter turns to spring, 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

### 2024-25 Officers

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

## DMCHS Staff

Executive Director .....Colton Neely  
Museum Assistant .....Kay Swanson  
Docent.....Cora Wicham-Hermann  
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# 72.161

The Sulky Salesman Model Plow, circa 1880

Donated by Dale R. Miller in 1972, this object was the 161st to have entered the museum's collection and be cataloged.

In the mid-nineteenth century, farm plows were changing rapidly thanks to improvements in manufactured steel and casting techniques. It was in the midst of this era that the lightweight, horse-drawn sulky (riding) plow was introduced.

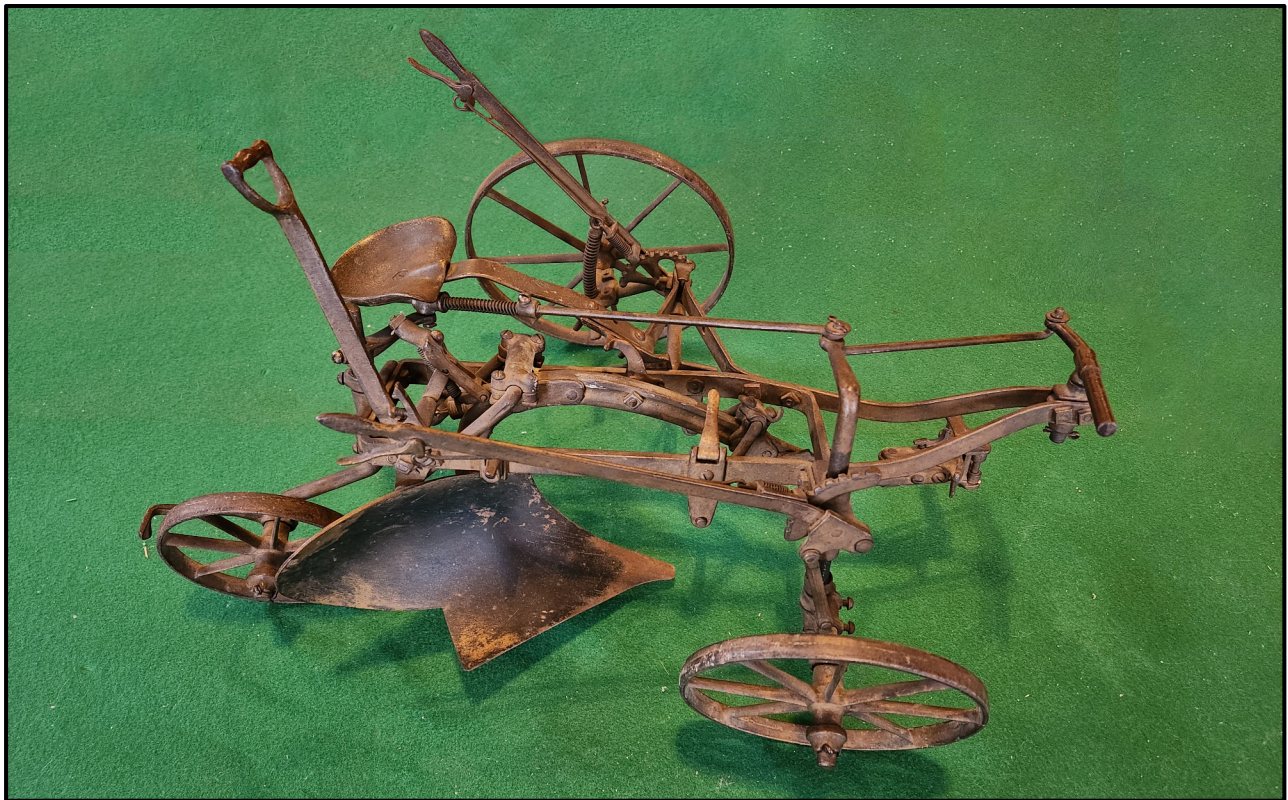
The sulky plow performed the same basic operation as a walking plow. Since it was built with wheels and levers to adjust its operation, it was pulled by a team of animals, which made plowing easier and faster.

The basic rule for the sulky plow was one horse per acre per day. Most often, this plow would have been pulled by three horses, but two could have done the job; adding the third horse made it easier on the whole team.

By the 1920s, steam traction engines and early gasoline tractors were replacing the horse, but the sulky plow was a sturdy enough device to withstand whatever was pulling it. Although it plowed with ease, the rider of the plow was tasked with keeping the plow balanced as he was pulled around the fields.

Salesmen couldn't take a sulky plow with them as they traveled the farmlands of the Midwest. Instead, they carried small, toy-like operational models to demonstrate the new techniques and ideas that were rapidly changing the agricultural world.

Our salesman-sized plow was given to the Des Moines County Historical Society as an example of one farm family's decision to purchase equipment on the farm. Salesmen-sized pieces are also available in our collection, such as wood-burning stoves, kitchenware, and tractors.



# 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 Prat**  
Jeff Heland

**In Honor of:**  
**LaVon Worley**  
Jessica Gardiner

**Donations:**  
Russ Fry  
Howard Rescot  
Gretchen Walls  
Robin Thomas  
Joyce Harvey  
Barbara Miller  
Bill Daws  
Judy Johnson  
Jerry Rigdon  
Donald Kellar  
Terri Dowell  
Greg Miller

**Memberships:**  
Carol and Gary Brotherson  
EvaAnn Elmer  
Olivia Mitchell  
David and Barbara Miller  
Scott and Joanie Power  
Mona Smith  
Judy Johnson  
Chris Gram  
Duane and Bev Sherbondy  
Carolyn Nelson  
Tim and Suzie Johnson  
Jerry and Lois Rigdon  
Laurie Lata  
Donald Kellar  
Greg Miller  
Jeff and Cathy Rucker  
Diane Callaway  
Barry and Terri Dowell

## 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

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Burlington, IA 52601  
Permit No. 568



John Deere Demo Painting  
Of the Sulky Plow

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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: Please contact Heritage Center for private tours.

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