



From the Executive Director

by Colton Overton

At last, spring is here, and Snake Alley's redbuds are in full bloom! In Des Moines County, I think spring is my favorite season. This spring feels so much longer than springs I've experienced in other places of Iowa where I've lived. The fact that Snake Alley loosens the chains and cars are able to navigate the winding hills is the nicest feature for visitors passing through Burlington at this time of year. Check out our newly illuminated Garrett-Phelps House from the outside if you're one of the many people that drive by it at night. Bessine Electric has been a huge assistance in ensuring that our historic properties look as beautiful as possible due to some previous electrical concerns. The Garrett-Phelps House and the Heritage Center are now exposed for your viewing at night!

Come celebrate with us after paying off our loan for the restoration of the Heritage Center roof with us on May 11 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Heritage Center. We will be anxiously awaiting the next round of funding for our different projects from our generous donors, grants, and foundations. The Des Moines County Historical Society is embarking on a new chapter with this announcement, as we will be supporting additional large-scale renovations and restoration going forward. Our board will give a thank-you speech, there will be catering, and the Spirit of Miss Lilly bar will be available (cash only). Community members are welcome to donate letters, pictures, and small mementos to be placed in the 50-year-old capsule that we will be using to end the afternoon. When the stacks room is being renovated, the box will be sealed and placed under the stairs in a stack. Come celebrate with us!

Lastly, we would like to call out to those interested in volunteering at either the Garrett-Phelps House or

Heritage Center for the Viking Mississippi River Boats. Contact me at coltonn@dmchs.org or (319) 729 - 7449 to schedule a day(s), a location, and let us know how you would like to help.

Date	Ship	Day	Time
7/6/2024	Viking	Sat	8 – 4 pm
7/18/2024	Viking	Thu	8 – 5 pm
8/10/2024	Viking	Sat	8 – 4 pm
8/22/2024	Viking	Thu	8 – 5 pm
8/26/2024	Viking	Mon	9:30 – 4:30 pm
9/5/2024	Viking	Thu	8 – 5 pm
9/9/2024	Viking	Mon	9:30 – 4:30 pm
9/19/2024	Viking	Thu	8 – 5 pm
10/12/2024	Viking	Sat	8 – 4 pm
10/24/2024	Viking	Thu	8 – 5 pm

As of February 28, 2024. Docking dates are subject to change.

Upcoming Events

New Era Party

May 11

3 to 5 pm

Join us at the Heritage Center for our official roof debt payoff celebration! We'll have a cash bar, time capsule closing, and hors d'oeuvres available. Get in touch with Executive Director Colton Overton if you would want to contribute letters, pictures, or other small mementos to the time capsule. Come along as we usher in the New Era for the Historical Society debt-free!

Sounds of the Past

May 25, June 15

10 am to 12 pm

Executive Director, Colton Overton, will be performing ragtime music on the historic Martin Bruhl piano in the atrium of the Heritage Center. Additionally, he will be doing Edison phonograph demonstrations. 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, May 11

11 am

This lecture features DMCHS Docent and Historian Cora Wickham-Hermann's research in Starr's Cave area. Doors open at 10 am.

Town Hall Lecture

Saturday, June 8

11 am

Colton Overton, Executive Director of DMCHS, is the speaker for this lecture series. The extensive history of Black Hawk Springs in Crapo Park serves as a basis for his topic. He'll cover a wide range of subjects, such as the history of caves in the area, the effects of building in Crapo Park, early settlers, and more. Doors open at 10 am.

Scones, Savories & Sweets

Tuesday, May 21, June 18, July 16, August 20, September 17

1 pm

Now accepting reservations for a three-course Tea Luncheon, a grand social gathering in the Garrett-Phelps House dining room. \$25 per person. Maximum capacity 12 participants. Call 319-752-7449 to reserve your seat.

SilverCord Walk-In

Thursday, May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

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 Lilly's Story Time

Tuesday, May 7, 14, 21, 28

10 am

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

Historic Newspaper Reading

Wednesday, May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Wednesday, June 5, 12, 19, 26

10 - 11 am

Historic Newspaper Discussion of current issues that can affect history, and pulling random themes/dates in Des Moines County History. Meet in Bart Howard Lounge.

Memorial Brick Garden

9 out 10 bricks ordered, Only 1 more needed for the next round.

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 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. We need 2 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 Overton, Executive Director, by phone at 319-752-7449.

Notice to Volunteers

If you are a volunteer at the Garrett-Phelps House with key access, please return your key to the Heritage Center and update your contact information with one of our staff members. Due to security reasons, we will install new key locks for the house. This is required for our insurance liability. If you wish to stay current as a volunteer for the Garrett-Phelps House, please consult with us at (319) 752-7449 before May 1st, 2024.

Board Members

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

Forest Gahn, Honorary Board Member

2024-25 Officers

ChairDon Weiss
Vice Chair.....Paula Logan
TreasurerTerri Dowell
SecretaryMegan Brincks

DMCHS Staff

Executive DirectorColton Neely
Museum AssistantKay Swanson
Docent.....Cora Wickham-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

Out of the Collection

By Colton Overton

The May 22, 1957 Kingston Twister

Since many Americans in the early 19th and 20th century had only heard about and seen images of the devastation caused by tornadoes, there is a rich history of tornadoes throughout the United States.

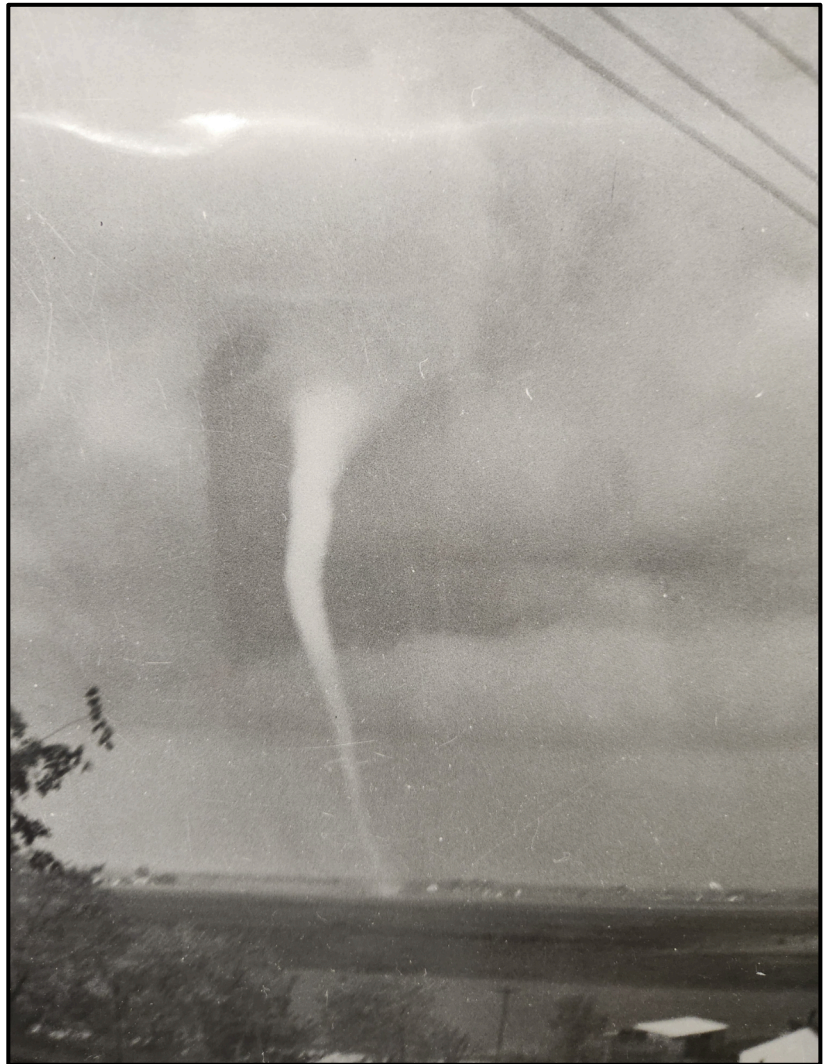
Unexpectedly, for a state that has historically been in Tornado Alley—Iowa—the earliest known photograph of a twister wasn't taken until August 28, 1884, in Howard, South Dakota. The first tornado in Iowa to be captured on camera happened in Kingsley, Iowa, on May 30, 1899, at 7:30 p.m. We are going to recount an incident that happened on May 22, 1957, nearby to the little rural town of Kingston, Iowa, in Des Moines County, for this month's tornado awareness effort.

The thirteen-year-old Nancy Hall, who is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Homer Hall, took this photograph. They were living on a farm on Highway 99, 2 ½ miles south of Kingston, at the time of the incident. Fortunately, there was no damage to the Hall Farm. We think that this image by Nancy Hall may be the first known photograph of a tornado in Des Moines County history, based on all the documents we were able to locate in our historical society and newspaper sources.

It was stated that the tornado sounded like tin rattling when it reached the Kingston neighborhood at 6:30 p.m. It destroyed a barn on one farm and left fragments all over its course as it skipped around the little town before rising up into a dust cloud in its wake. A hog house was also said to have been carried more than 100 feet by the tornado and then placed undamaged in a different area. The tornado had such tremendous sucking strength that it lifted debris from a nearby shed that had a spring, and then it sucked the spring so hard that water started to flow out of it for the first time in two years.

As Nancy Hall's mother said to the newspaper reporter, "I don't care to watch another one."

In addition to Nancy's photo, we have a picture of the Heritage Center taken in 1908 (#74.661), following a tornado that uprooted trees, and a picture of the West



Burlington Twister taken in 1916 (#01.102), which destroyed the locomotive sheds.

The Des Moines County Historical Society wishes to express its appreciation to an anonymous Mediapolis Community School student who, following the tornado touchdown in New London, Iowa, on April 16, 2024, wished to raise awareness about the potential for more tornadoes than usual this year.

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

James Pilger
Annette Kuhlemeier
Marianna Brinck & Family

Black Hawk Rock
Archaeological Dig
Ann Hass
Michael Fitzgibbon
Dan Fell

Memberships
Richard & Carol Benne
Nancy Guffey
David & Berit Hoelzen
Mary Shilling McManis DDS
Milton & Laurine Paule
Jerry & Patricia Courtney
Gail Sullivan
Doris Van Winkle
Kimberly Kracaw
John Thurman
Roger & Lynn Sheagren
Ruth Ann Sandrock
Don Lindholm

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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Aftermath of a 1908 tornado at the
Library (now Heritage Center)

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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.