



## From the Executive Director

by Colton Overton

We had our New Era Party on May 11 to show our gratitude to all of our devoted patrons and members who have helped us repay the over \$600,000 loan for the roof restoration of the Heritage Center. Even though this gave us some budgetary constraints, it's now completed. We can move forward with other restoration work and create more engaging exhibits. On the day of our New Era Party, over a hundred individuals attended events, ate hors d'oeuvres, and drank champagne at the Heritage Center. A packed house attended a town hall talk given by Cora Wickham-Hermann about the extensive history of Starr's Cave and its location. Don Weiss, board chair, concluded the evening with a touching statement thanking everyone present for their years of support towards the Historical Society. I addressed items that were given to our time capsule. We still have donations to come in, so our time capsule will be sealed at a later time.

We will be doing some cleaning at the Heritage Center starting around June 14 - 15 and potentially close for a few days prior to and during the Snake Alley Art Fair, held on June 16. We are happy to inform you that Garrett-Phelps will reopen from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. as part of the Snake Alley Art Fair. Throughout the day, there will be a nominal admission fee of \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children. This will assist us in funding some urgently required home renovations and repairs. After your self-guided tour, there will be an optional survey about the accessibility and current interpretation of the house museum. We hope to see you there! Please let me know if you would want to volunteer on that particular day.

As a reminder, 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 docking dates. Contact me at coltonn@dmchs.org or (319) 729 - 7449 to schedule a day(s), a location, and duty you would like.

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

### **Snake Alley Art Fair Open House Sunday, June 16**

**9 to 4 pm**

Join us for a self-guided tour of Burlington's most illustrious family at the Garrett-Phelps House located at the top of Snake Alley. Constructed in 1851, this home supported two large families and functioned as a hospital briefly. It was donated to the historical society in 1973. The home has been a staple of the Snake Alley Art Fair.

### **Sounds of the Past Saturday, June 15, July 20**

**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, 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.

### **Kids Museum Camp July 23, 24, 25, 26, 27**

**\$75.00 per child (Free with Family Membership)**

Is your child or grandchild interested in Corney Crafts, Backyard Archaeology, Parlor Games and Art, Mining for Gemstones, and Scavenger Hunts? Then sign up for the Kids Museum Camp. Visit the Heritage Center for information and take our flier.

### **Scones, Savories & Sweets Tuesday, 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, June 6, 13, 20, 27 Thursday, July 4, 11, 18, 25**

**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.

### **Historic Newspaper Reading Wednesday, June 5, 12, 19, 26 Wednesday, July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**

**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

**11 bricks ordered!** Thank you to all who have contributed!

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](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 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.

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## Want to Volunteer?

There is still time to volunteer to assist with Viking dockings to help us provide the best experience to those coming to Burlington.

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

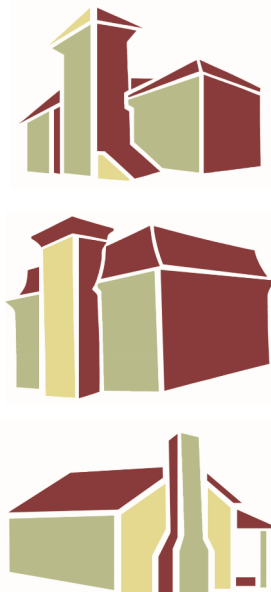
Forest Gahn, Honorary Board Member

### 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 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](mailto:dmchs@dmchs.org)

# Out of the Collection

By Colton Overton

## Object #75.209

We have a wide range of genres and subjects covered in our collection of Des Moines County photos. Men and families driving their cars is one of the most popular photo genres. When automobiles were first introduced to the market, they were costly and risky purchases. In addition to the scarcity of parts and the lack of expertise among blacksmiths to produce certain mechanisms, pharmacies only carried a meager supply of gasoline, which was mostly meant for cleaning purposes. At one point, Burlington made an attempt to enter the auto industry by contracting a local wagon firm to build one of these cars.

The John Burg & Sons Wagon Company (also known as the John Burg Wagon Co.), located at 1001 Osborne Street, was founded in 1851 and moved to Missouri in 1910. It is well-known that, as early as 1897, a wagon maker by the name of Ed Burg considered the concept of a horseless carriage and provided funding for the development of an electric or gasoline-powered car

prototype. His wagon makers and blacksmiths set to work creating a conventional, but well-liked, piano delivery wagon modified to support the added weight of a motor. Rather than scare pedestrian and horses, he decided to go with the notion of an electric automobile and bought parts from a company in Chicago. A short while later, motors, batteries, chains, and sprockets were delivered.

The horseless carriage had a false bottom and held 50 battery cells, weighing a total of 1,200 pounds. It could travel up to 36 miles in one direction and reach a top speed of 12 miles per hour. In April 1901, it made its maiden trip along Jefferson Street and covered eighteen miles before making the 18-mile trip back to the shop to recharge. Although this presented a marketing challenge, Burg motor wagons continued to advance until the mid-1910s, when they were replaced by more advanced Burg gasoline cars. The original motorcar's fate is unknown, but if it has survived, it would be among the most sought-after artifacts

at our museum.

Although there isn't a picture of this horseless carriage available, the collection does contain a well-known picture of the "Vaughn Bros." building with ten men standing outside. One of the earliest sales firms to sell boats and carriages without horses was Vaughn Bros. In addition, they provided rentals—which, as far as we know, was a first for the county.



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



# 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

**James Pilger**  
Marianna Brincks  
Terry Good  
Deborah Wischmeier

**In Honor of**  
**LaVon Worley's Birthday**  
Jessica Gardner

**Black Hawk Rock**  
**Archaeological Dig**  
Sharon Eisenmayer

**Donations**  
Howard Rescot  
LaVon Worley

**Memberships**  
Dwight & Sue Mulch  
Howard Rescot  
Danielle McLaughlin  
Evelyn Shaw  
Julie Hensley  
Kent & Gretchen Lewis  
Leanne & Dudley Cone  
Patricia Short  
Alan & Cyndy Fabel  
Sherri & Dan Hutchcroft  
Jim & Jackie Holtkamp  
Judy Hinesley  
Nancy Hoelzen  
Sharon Eisenmayer  
Tom & Sally Parrott  
Phyllis Harwell  
Susan Brooks

## 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

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Vaughn Bros. Electric Cars

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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).