

## From the Executive Director

by Colton Overton

How much fun our Museums Kids Camp was this month! We provided assistance to our young historians in a range of both indoor and outdoor activities. On Tuesday, kids created corn husk dolls and designed birdhouses for their personal prairie gardens. They even had the opportunity to shuck corn on an old-fashioned hand crank corn husker while creating their husk-covered dolls. On Wednesday, we conducted archaeology-style arrowhead excavations in the Garrett-Phelps House backyard. On Thursday, kids used clues from our exhibits to go throughout the museum in search of a treasure box. We got together on Friday and played games like Croquette, Kick the Can, and Stick-n-Hoop, which are Victorian-era parlor games. Stick and Hoop was a huge hit, giving parents hope that we might get more for our upcoming gift shop. Finally, we used a replicated sluice to mine for gemstones and crinoids in the Heritage Center's backyard on a sweltering RAGBRAI day. Parents, staff, and volunteers had a great day, and we hope to see everyone again next year.

I've also been quite busy working with our team on our Heritage Center repainting project. The yellow walls are receding. To find out what the original colors of the Heritage Center's interior were over the course of the previous 100 years, we sanded a portion of the walls. While doing so, we came upon a gorgeous shade of jade green that we believe dates back to the 1910s and 1920s. We started working after locating an exact paint sample from Sherwin-Williams Art Nouveau paint range. While we finished the walls around the Grand Staircase, we visited the Grand Gallery Research Room, Atrium, half the Stacks, Rotunda, Seashell Room, and the Admission Desk.

We completed several areas of the rooms with Greek Turn Key motifs and paired the green with a linen white hue. You can understand why our librarians would have selected that hue if we take a step back. It looks great with the elaborate woodwork throughout the structure. Come on down and have a look! You won't be disappointed.

| Date       | Ship   | Day | Time           |
|------------|--------|-----|----------------|
| 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       |

Those interested in volunteering at either the Garrett-Phelps House or Heritage Center for the Viking River Boats, please contact me at [coltonn@dmchs.org](mailto:coltonn@dmchs.org) or 319-752-7449 to schedule a day(s), a location, and a duty you would like.

## Upcoming Events

### **Sounds of the Past**

**Saturday, August 20, September 21**

**10 am to 12 pm**

In the Heritage Center's atrium, Colton Overton, Executive Director, will play ragtime on the historic Martin Bruhl piano. In addition, he will demonstrate the Edison phonograph on special occasions. Please use the main entrance on the east side at the top of the ramp, 4th Street. Doors open at 9:45 am.

### **Town Hall Lecture**

**Saturday, August 10**

**11 am, Bart Howard Lounge**

#### **Crapo Park and its Early History**

The Des Moines County Historical Society features staff member Amy Power in a talk about the growth of Crapo Park. See the August Newsletter for additional details.

### **Town Hall Lecture**

**Saturday, September 14**

**11 am in Bart Howard Lounge**

#### **The lost Parlor Organs of the Midwest & Concert**

Colton Overton, Executive Director, gives a presentation about the history, astounding mechanics, and downfall of the Midwest's parlor organs. A Newman Pump Organ donated to the museum is currently undergoing restoration and will be used for programming. This event will present a tastefully recreated sample of what our ancestors' homes would have sounded like.

\*Program note: In the event that restoration reports delays in operation, Facebook and the newspaper will both provide updates on the program.

### **SilverCord Walk-In**

**Thursday, August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**

**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.

### **Town Hall Lecture**

**Saturday, October 12**

**11 am in Bart Howard Lounge**

#### **Philip Crapo Seashell Collection & Exhibit**

Museum staff member Cora Hermann-Wickham has been working on Philip Crapo's personal seashell collection from all around the world for the past few months. A new display at the Heritage Center's historic front door will be unveiled during this presentation. She will discuss Philip Crapo, a founder of Burlington, and his supposed trips, including how he collected unusual seashells and how, after his death, the old Burlington Public Library acquired it.

### **Scones, Savories & Sweets**

**Tuesday, 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.

### **Historic Newspaper Reading**

**Wednesday, August 7, 14, 21, 28**

**10 - 12 pm**

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

### Engraving to start on 11 bricks! Another 1 waits for 9 more.

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.

---

## 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 Overton  
Museum Assistant .....Kay Swanson  
Docent.....Cora Hermann-Wickham  
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)

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

# Out of the Collection

By Colton Overton

Object #72.298

## The Angular Streetcar Crash

While in the process of sorting and filing our photography collection, Object #72.298 depicts a streetcar crash at the foot of Angular Street, January 16th, 1916. The accident was investigated by the city on January 18 - 21. Below is the Burlington Hawk Eye Newspaper article from January 21, 1916, on page 10.

### LAST SUNDAY'S ACCIDENT

**Subject of Report by Councilman Alfred Wiesley.**

**Recommendations Concurred in by Council— Ask for Investigation by Mechanical Engineer.**

The city council met in regular session yesterday forenoon with all members present. Councilman Wiesley made a report on his investigation as to the cause of the recent street-car accident at the foot of Angular Street. He submitted a number of signed statements made by passengers as follows: Mrs. W. H. Dalton, of 1208 Central avenue, said: On January 16, I boarded a car at Fifth and Jefferson Streets at about 10:30 am, not knowing either conductor or motorman. I occupied a seat with a lady, with whom I conversed; did not notice anything unusual until we arrived at Ninth and Walnut Streets, and then someone wanted off; the car, instead of stopping at the proper place, ran a distance of two car lengths over the usual stopping place; I rang the bell to signal the car to stop at the next street, which was South Street, and I should judge the car ran its length past the proper stopping place. I saw the motorman applying the hand brakes with all his might, and when passing the conductor on my

way out I remarked: "I thought I would give you plenty of time." He then replied: "These darned old cars; the brakes won't work on them."

Wm. Hutchison, of 1322 Lucas Avenue: On January 16 at about 11:30 a. M., I boarded car No. 33, Cy Weaver being a motorman and Al Leyes conductor. I noticed when the car was to come to a stop at Fourth and Jefferson Streets, it passed the regular intersection about ten or twelve feet. The same thing occurred at Main and Jefferson, Weaver using both hands to set the brakes; the same thing occurred at Main and Market Streets. Weaver, in order to reverse the streetcar had to stop and throw off the switch at Main and Angular. I then rode to Fourth and Angular and got off, that being my destination.

J. Banner, of 1230 Virginia Avenue: The car had quite a time stopping at Ninth and Locust Streets; did not stop again after leaving the switch on South Ninth Street; I first noticed we were going too fast when we passed the ice houses on Angular Street. When we reached the block between Third and Main Streets on Angular, the conductor said: "Grab hold of seats." changed motormen on switch on Ninth Street; Cy Weaver, motorman,

brought the car to switch. Mr. L. Rayer said he noticed the car was going quite fast at Eighth and Angular and mentioned to his wife that the motorman was going fast. It all happened so quickly, we did not realize until it was all over.



Testimonials did not detail what happened during and after the crash, however, Burlington Mayor and City Council posted a plan of action to hire an engineer to investigate what happened mechanically to this streetcar.

What do you think caused the wreck? Rheostat Failure? Worn Brake Pads? Ice on Track?

# 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 & Martha Pratt**

Jeff Heland

**James Pilger**

John Wiberg  
Mary Krohlow  
Debbie Bessine  
Patrick McGuire  
Charlie Buhmeyer  
Deborah Knupp  
Debra Ertzinger  
Rick John  
Sherry Zeller

**Donations  
Building Projects**

Mary Krohlow  
Andrew Wagner  
Gayle Elliott

**Blackhawk Rock  
Archaeological Dig**

Lyle Gibson

**Memberships**

David & Sue Beckman  
Maria Roth  
Jim Plate  
Mary Krohlow  
Scott & Kay Swanson  
Ann Hass  
Addison Mechanical/ Paul Miller  
Ron & Sandy Stephens  
Russ Fry  
Mark & Marquerite Fehseke  
Gayle Elliott  
Joyce & Kenny Johnson  
David & Amy Camp  
Niki Kerr & Jesse Martinez  
Kathy Schneider  
Steve & Trina Spencer  
Bev Siekman  
Tina Carson  
Burton & Joanne Prugh  
Carol Kottenstette

## 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**

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



Corn husking at Summer Camp

## What's inside this issue

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| <b>From the Executive Director .....</b>         | <b>1</b> |
| <b>Upcoming Events .....</b>                     | <b>2</b> |
| <b>Want to Volunteer? .....</b>                  | <b>3</b> |
| <b>Memorial Brick Garden .....</b>               | <b>3</b> |
| <b>A Gift in Your Will or Living Trust .....</b> | <b>3</b> |
| <b>Out of the Collection .....</b>               | <b>4</b> |
| <b>Donations &amp; Memberships.....</b>          | <b>5</b> |

## 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).