

From the Executive Director

by Colton Overton

With Viking Mississippi in full swing, hundreds of visitors from around the globe have visited Garrett-Phelps and the Heritage Center! We sincerely appreciate all of the effort that our volunteers and employees put forth to make our guests feel welcome. Making sure everyone gets from place to place when the summer heat is at its worst is a difficult task. However, we are driven to highlight Garrett-Phelps and the Heritage Center, two of Burlington's finest structures.

Regarding presenting our historic sites, we will be part of the Heritage Trust Tour of Homes starting on September 28 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and September 29 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tickets will be available for purchase at Garrett-Phelps, Heritage Center, Heritage Trust, and Houses on the Tour during the day of the tours.

Both locations are now in need of volunteers to help out and assist people around the museum sites. Personally, I'd like to hear perspectives about the Garrett-Phelps House before we update the displays, give it a thorough cleaning before winter, and improve accessibility.

Before the "Stacks" area is refurbished, there are still a lot of projects going on throughout the Heritage Center. We have cleaned and adjusted our mantle clock in the Grand Gallery. It runs surprisingly well for five days in a row before needing to be winded. It has to be observed occasionally because it tends to run 5–10 minutes quickly. In the older sections of the Heritage Center, we are also replacing quite a number of outlets and electrical switches with mother-of-pearl button switches and brass Beaux Arts panels that fit with the building's aesthetic.

In addition to increasing safety and lowering the possibility of fires or shortages, they also give many of the amazing rooms an additional layer of more beauty. Furthermore, we replaced broken carpentry and missing picture rails in several of the rooms' ceilings and added period-style stencil work. The grand staircase, seashell display, and rotunda will all get new exhibit spot lights. The original seraphine jewel water fountain's ornamental water feature and the atrium lights/sconces are the only two elements remaining to enhance the building's 1890s appeal. Your contributions are valued and useful for the Heritage Center's renovations!

Date	Ship	Day	Time
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 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 Boats. Please contact me at 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, 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, September 5, 12, 19, 26

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, 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, September 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Wednesday, October 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.

Funeral Music

Saturday, October 19

10 am - 12 pm

In the Heritage Center's atrium, Colton Overton, Executive Director, will play ten historic funeral, halloween, and spooky pieces on the historic Martin Bruhl piano. Please use the main entrance on the east side at the top of the ramp, 4th Street. Doors open at 9:45 am.

Memorial Brick Garden

**We have 235 blank bricks that could have your name!
Engraving starts every 10 bricks!**

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.

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

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

DMCHS Staff

Executive DirectorColton Overton
Museum AssistantKay 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

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

Out of the Collection

By Colton Overton

Object #2013.871

Standard Sioux Corliss Engine

Ideally, museums have a wish list of items that fulfill their mission statement by adding value to their collection and narrative appeal. In many big museums, when industrial-era machinery and automobiles are in working order, they are living monuments to history that inspire awe and astonishment in the general public. The Old Threshers Reunion is one of Iowa's largest events, drawing thousands of spectators each year. A unique look at the history of farming, printing, factories, railroads, and entertainment may be found there. You can ride steam locomotives, witness how steam tractors thresh heavy grass, and do a lot of other things.

The Des Moines County Historical Society is searching for steam engine parts in addition to riverboat memorabilia and salvage components. Our goal is to someday acquire an exceptional Corliss Steam Engine, which was produced at the Murray Iron Works. For more than a century, these steam-powered single and compound engines effectively propelled the industrial era. While not created in Burlington, Iowa, the Murray Iron Works undoubtedly achieved perfection in them. In addition, Murray Iron Works featured both high- and low-pressure boilers to supply steam to stationary engines, turbine-electrical engines, and milling engines. Nowadays, many of these engines are still in use, so we inquire in our community whether they have knowledge of the Murray Corliss engine.

According to a 1916 advertisement found in the Burlington Hawk Eye:

*"Murray Corliss Engines are built either with girder frames, tangye frames, or rolling mill frames of our patented design. **The Standard Murray Corliss** is a girder frame engine built in sizes up to 18 x 42 inches, and capacities ranging from 50 to 600 H. P. **Murray Tangye Frame Corliss Engines** for extra heavy duty are built in sizes from 16 x 36 inches upward. Our **Rolling Mill Type Frame** for high pressure and high speeds is built for engines from 12 x 25 inches upwards. Capacities range from 100 to 1300 H. P. **Tandem and Cross Compound Engines** are built for any load required. Murray Minor Corliss Engines, 20 to 70 H. P., are suitable for the smaller mills and factories. Ask for Catalog No. 65."*

A wonderful 28 1/2" by 35 1/2" promotional photo of the Standard Corliss Engine from the Murray Iron Works Co.



was contributed in 2013 by volunteers Bill and Pam Daws. In 1893, this picture was displayed at the Columbian Exposition in honor of the 400th anniversary of Columbia's arrival.

We're still looking for this steam engine, but soon our renovated gift shop will have full size copies of this photo for sale!

Donations & Memberships

Names are for receipts dated from the 15th through the 15th of each month.

In Memory of
William & Martha Pratt
Jeff Heland

James Pilger
John Hunsaker

Donations
Building Projects
Joe Otto
Andrew Wagner
Gayle Elliott

Garrett-Phelps House
Carolyn Dorting

Memberships
David & Inez Metzger
Nancy & Ralph Montrone
Diane & Kevin Mueller
Deb & Mike Bowen
Terrence Nollen
Charles & Mim Van Winkle
Bill Ell
Judy Hulsey
LaVon & Judy Worley
Patricia Steiner
Elaine Eisenmann
Helen Smith
Kathy Murphy
Joe Otto
Janice Gobble
Bob & Vicki Gerdes
Rodney & Barbara Botts

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.

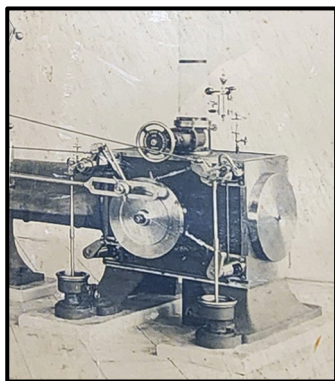
Name _____
Address _____ City _____ St _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email Address _____

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



Standard Sioux Corliss Engine

What's inside this issue

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

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.