

From the Executive Director

by Colton Overton

With the cool air and the gentle tone of the leaves changing hues, the end of the season is almost upon us. We have just two more Viking Mississippi River trips left visiting Burlington. Then we will begin to move into our fall and winter inventory and archive cleaning!

Our restoration project to the “Stacks” room for our renovated library exhibit and gift shop will start in October. We have recently been awarded a grant of \$30,000 from the Baker Foundation and \$7,500 from the national Cynthia Woods Mitchell Grant for Historic Interiors. According to both foundations, the historic library stacks area is a hidden gem in Burlington and a national treasure. The funds will be utilized to restore the space to its magnificent and elegant state from 1900 to 1907. Your assistance would be helpful for many tasks, including painting, polishing brass work, and exhibit displays. There are several opportunities to be involved! If you are interested in helping the team, contact the front desk to schedule a time. Almost all ages are welcome!

Like the “Stacks,” Garrett-Phelps recently received a \$15,000 grant from the Murray Foundation. In addition, \$5,000 was donated by a number of other contributors for the house’s special exhibits. Our staging, emergency exit

signs, lighting, and handicap accessibility will all be updated. Repairing this home and revisiting the Garrett-Phelps story will be beneficial in 2025 when applying for funds. Again, there are many ways to get involved with this if you would like to lend a hand!

Garrett-Phelps, which symbolizes more than 173 years of Des Moines County history, is undoubtedly one of Burlington's most exquisite homes.

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. Contact me at coltonn@dmchs.org or (319) 752 - 7449 to schedule a day(s), a location, and a duty you would like to participate in!

Date	Ship	Day	Time
10/12/2024	Viking	Sat	8 – 4 pm
10/24/2024	Viking	Thu	8 – 5 pm

Volunteers Alert: Garrett-Phelps House & Hawkeye Log Cabin

A reminder to our volunteers to please return your key for the Log Cabin and Garrett-Phelps House at the end the season. Our board has implemented this simple security step in order to give our team time to count artifacts, fix broken furniture, and examine the facilities before winter sets in. Thus, we can complete an evaluation of each property, calculate the costs of modifications, and in 2025, I can search for suitable grants to pay for the majority of the costs. Also, please remove any of your personal items, or they will be cataloged into the collection! To put it lightheartedly, we enjoy gathering everything, but we don’t require sweaters and stale sandwiches! All keys must be returned to the museum’s front desk or the mailbox located behind the Heritage Center, and are due October 31st, 2024 by 4:00 p.m. Thank you.

Upcoming Events

Sounds of the Past

Funeral Music

Saturday, October 19

10 am to 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 utilize the main entrance on the east side at the top of the ramp, Fourth Street. Doors open at 9:45 am.

Thursday, November 16

10 am to 12 pm

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

*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.

Historic Newspaper Reading

Wednesday, October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

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.

SilverCord Walk-In

Tuesday, October 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.

Research & Collections Help Office Hours

Fridays, 10 am to 12 pm

Do you need help with Research? Do you need to have an idea that is worth discussing? Come to the Heritage Center and we can assist you!

Executive Director Office Hours

Fridays, 1 to 4 pm



A Very Vintage Christmas

December 7 2024, 5:30 pm

at the Heritage Center

Save the Date!

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
Collections AssistantCora 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 #2024.061.1

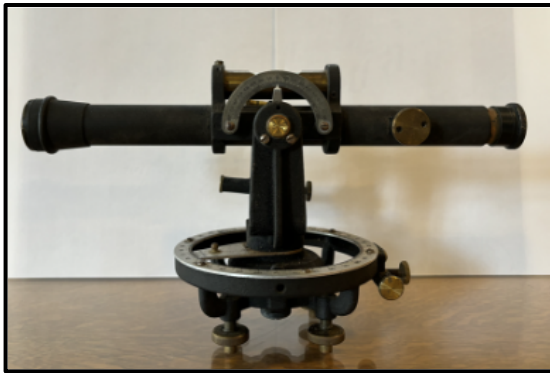
Serial No. 8022

Tripod No. 9020

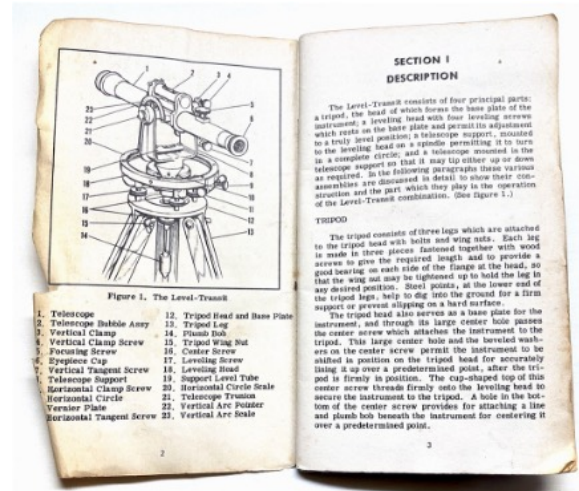
David White Company Level-Transit

Level-transits are precision optical instruments used in surveying and construction projects to measure distance, angles, elevation, and position objects and lines. This particular instrument was manufactured in the 1930s by the David White Company of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The company is still in business today as David White SitePro.

This object includes a 11 1/2 x 5 1/2 x 7 1/2 in. wooden carrying box that contains the instrument. At the bottom of the instrument is the leveling head which includes four leveling screws that are used to adjust the height of the instrument until it is level. Mounted above the leveling head is the telescope support, permitting the telescope to turn in a complete circle. Finally, the telescope itself is mounted so that it can also move vertically up and down to allow more range of angle measurement. Older models like



this one require two other pieces of equipment besides the instrument itself. This instrument came with a tripod with 5 ft. tall legs used to securely hold the instrument, while a leveling rod is placed on the reference point of which needs to be measured. In order to most efficiently operate, two people are required.



Accompanying the instrument inside the carrying box is a forty page instruction booklet which includes notes on how to properly setup the equipment in order to accurately measure any site.

A yellow tag stating the manufacturer's guarantee and a red tag, originally attached to the instrument, reminds the user to read the instruction booklet before use for most efficient operation of the instrument.

Instruments like these are still in use today and apply GPS or laser technology in order to be operated efficiently by one person.



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
Kathy Shriver Mundt

Donations
Roger Hatteberg
Tonja Binder

Memberships
Catherine Cowles-Bosley
Ray Delmege & Martha Clyde
Carole Halicki
Pauline Lowther
Mary Fox
Carol Messer
Vicky Summerson
James Lemberger

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



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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.