

From the Executive Director

by Colton Overton

We are happy to report that the work on our historic library stacks is yielding an array of results for those who have been following our recent progress at the Heritage Center!

First off, the money for our reproduction sconces from "Old Brick Lighting" came from our nationally awarded Cynthia Woods Mitchell Grant for Historic Interiors. These unique handcrafted and glass-blown sconces were made to resemble the early 1901 photograph of the stacks facing north toward our Hypatia stained glass window almost exactly. Despite their lack of focus in the black and white image, the twenty sconces have been shown to be essential for lighting the main aisle and enhancing the room's aesthetic appeal.

As our electricians continue to work on re-electrifying the space, I stumbled upon a 1901 manufacturer's book on eBay that offers more details on how the room was built, cleaned, and furnished. The "Bird Cage Light" is another intriguing component of the stacks that we plan to add. Like the top of a birdcage, these unusual lights stretched from one upper stack to the next. This adds a touch of elegance and functionality to the room's iron-gantry work. They were taken out a century later to make way for contemporary sconces and fluorescent lighting, but will be put back to preserve the room's historical integrity.

Southeastern Community College's Automotive Collision and Repair Department is another intriguing relationship I worked with on the

upkeep and cleaning of the stacks with their invaluable advice on how to clean the stacks. After a century of muck and grime, the results of simply cleaning the stacks are astounding. **View the before and after photos below!** You have no idea how this room will appear after a thorough cleaning in March 2025!

In terms of library furniture, the Fenton Art Metal Case Co., who built the stacks, said they thought the room was the most costly one money could purchase. It had a number of missing, odd features that I found had been lost over time.

At one time, the "Coil Curtain," a chain-link curtain, covered every window. It was feared that lightning might enter through the window and hit the stacks during a strong and electrically charged storm. The idea was to ground the lightning without it striking the stacks by placing coil curtains in the window. It's unlikely that this would occur, but the superstition will make for an entertaining discussion for years to come!

Just as a reminder, seats are running out for the Christmas Dinner on December 7th, so reserve your spot immediately!



You can contact us for tickets at (319) 752-7449 or at Coltonn@dmchs.org for more information. Or feel free to come into the Heritage Center and purchase them in person.

We hope to see you that night!

Upcoming Events

Sounds of the Past Saturday, December 21 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.

Historic Newspaper Reading Wednesday, December 4, 11, 18, 27 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, December 3, 10, 17, 31 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. Note: this does not include Thanksgiving Week.

A Very Heritage Christmas Saturday, December 7 5:30 - 9 pm

Reserve one table for 8 friends and family for \$500 or \$75.00 per chair. Comes with three silent film shows, a home style dinner, an exclusive nighttime look of our new renovations, and more! Contact Heritage Center at (319)752-7449 or Coltonn@dmchs.org to reserve your spot now!

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

Closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day December 24 and 25, 2024

Closed New Years Holiday January 1, 2025

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 help make 2025 the best year ever for the Heritage Center, Garrett-Phelps House and Crapo Park Log Cabin.

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
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Museum AssistantKay Swanson
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Wickham
Docent.....Amy Power



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dmchs@dmchs.org

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

Out of the Collection

By Cora Hermann-Wickham

Object ID: 2024.041.1

Winter Scene Postcard

Published exclusively for S.H. Knox & Co.

Made in the U.S.A.

Date: 1910

Front of postcard:

'Winter Scene, Lovers Lane, Crapo Park, Burlington, Iowa'

Photochrom image of a lady dressed in a heavy, all-black dress and coat underneath a limestone overhang with large icicles hanging over the rock face. There is snow along the path and no leaves on the trees.

Lover's Lane still exists today and is located underneath the scenic

east-facing bluff overlooking the Mississippi near the current bandshell and Crapo Park Log Cabin.



Early American postcard history:

On February 27, 1861, U.S. Congress passed an act that allowed privately printed cards, weighing one ounce or under, to be sent in the mail. Later that year, John P. Charlton copyrighted the first postcard in America. In 1907, the United States government decreed that the backs

of postcards would be divided in half, with messages written on the left side and address information on the right. This is the same format we use today. From the early 1900s to about 1915,

sending postcards was incredibly popular, especially in small towns and rural areas.

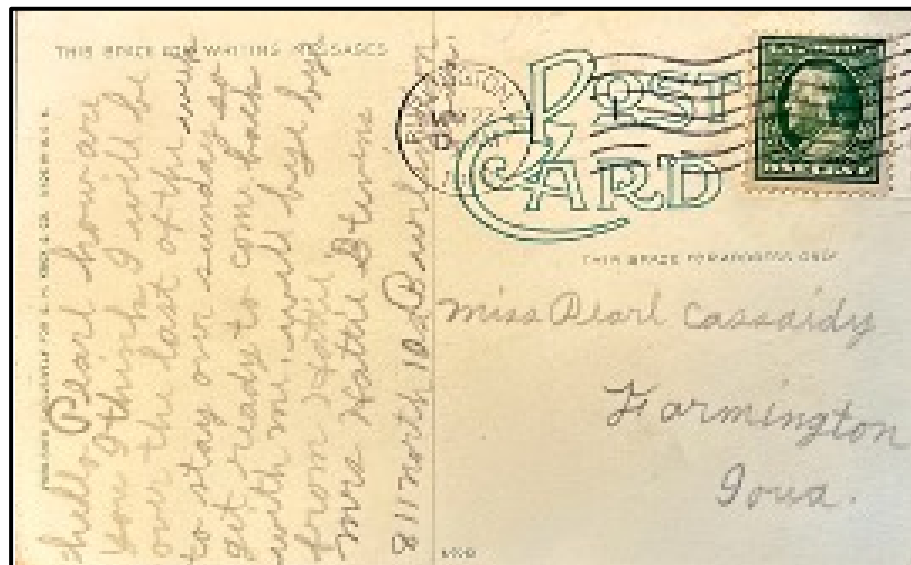
Back of postcard:

Complete with a one-cent U.S. postage stamp

Stamped 'Burlington May 22 10-AM 1910'

Addressed to a Miss Pearl Cassaidy in Farmington, Iowa. Sent from Mrs. Hattie Stevens of 811 North 10th St, Burlington, Iowa.

The message reads: 'Hello Pearl, how are you, I think I will be over the last of the week to stay over Sunday so get ready to come back with me. Well bye bye from Hattie.'



Donations & Memberships

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

In Memory of
William & Martha Pratt
Jeff Heland

Donations
Anonymous
Rob Ritson
Lillian Rubin

Memberships
Diane & Bob Mansheim
Brea Corrigan
Sue & Dean Vickstrom
Marianna Brinck
Judy Smithson & Jim Hilkin
Mary Graham
Arlys Cecconi
Joyce Kuster

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
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Burlington, IA 52601
Permit No. 568



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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.