

## From the Executive Director

by Colton Overton

How the year has begun! I am unable to express my gratitude to the board, staff, volunteers, and patrons for their ongoing support to the Heritage Center, Garrett-Phelps House, and Crapo Park Log Cabin.

As you may know, American Cruise Lines was unable to visit Burlington this year due to a stop in operations. Our personnel and volunteers were unfazed by this, as we thrived on carrying out our goal for Viking Cruises.

The museum will have a busy year in 2025 as we start renovating the Garrett-Phelps House. We are searching for long-term financing that can sustain a team of employees, in addition to funding renovations to facilities and patching up aesthetic flaws. We greatly benefit from your contribution.

The library stacks renovation continues according to plan. We are currently painting scuffs all over the room and buffing the floor. The museum's neighbor, a carpenter, is building a ramp that will descend one aisle, cross another stack aisle, and then ramp back up. (Note: for the pathway, the stacks are undamaged and intact.) As a result, there will be less congestion in the exhibit during riverboat season, allowing people to browse the many antiquities the old library has gathered while walking in and around the ground floor of the stacks! Naturally, the space is glistening, and a smile is returned by our renowned "Hypatia" stained glass window. Soon after some cosmetic repairs are completed, electrical work will begin, reintroducing our nationally supported funding to

restore the inside lights to its 1901 appearance.

For those of you who are curious about early Iowa statehood, early politics, and early genealogy, through a series of letters, our newest exhibit in construction, "My Dear Vinnie," examines the lives of Governor James Wilson Grimes and his adopted daughter Lavinia "Vinnie" Noble Grimes Nichols Buck. Later, due to the kind donor, Joyce Harvey, we will publish a book with the transcriptions of the letters and providing more details on the correspondence between the two. Additionally, the exhibit will feature updated signs about the bas-reliefs, the connection between Governor Grimes and Rev. Salters, and a variety of family artifacts. Although the exhibit is still under development, it should be finished by the end of February 2025.

It's satisfying to take account of all the effort we put into restoring the Heritage Center's "old side." Although there is still some work to be done, the interior of the structure appears to be ten years old rather than one hundred. The phrase "The building feels like it wraps around you like a cozy blanket of history" was my favorite thing I have ever heard from a visitor. A confirmed date for the stacks' unveiling will be announced in the upcoming newsletter.

You can contact us for any questions or comments at (319) 752-7449 or at [Coltonn@dmchs.org](mailto:Coltonn@dmchs.org) for more information. Or feel free to come into the Heritage Center.

## Upcoming Events

### **Sounds of the Past - Valentine Music**

**Saturday, February 15**

**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**

**Wednesdays, February 5, 12, 19, 26**

**10 - 11 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.

### **New Program**

#### **Burlington History Club**

**Wednesdays, February 5, 12, 19, 26**

**11:30 am to 12:30 pm**

Immediately follows the Historic Newspaper Reading. Are you looking for a research idea? Are you just enthusiastic about Des Moines County History and want to share your knowledge with a group? This club is open to all who are interested in anything history related and with a staff member allow in person digs for information within our collections!

### **SilverCord Walk-In**

**Tuesday, February 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.

### **Spider Web Youth Center**

**Wednesdays, March 8**

**11 am to 12 pm**

Museum staff member Amy Power gives a presentation about the Spider Web Youth Center. The non-profit charter from 1942 to 1994 influenced culture in Burlington. Margaret Uffelman for twenty eight worked diligently to bring youth together. This event will present the events, people, places, and things that made the Spider Web the oldest continuously running and likely only self-supporting youth center in the United States. Uffelman was inducted in the Iowa Rock 'n Roll Music Association Hall of Fame. Meet in Bart Howard Lounge. Please utilize the main entrance on the east side at the top of the ramp, Fourth Street. Doors open at 10:45 am.

### **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**

# Memorial Brick Garden

**We have 235 blank bricks that could have your name!  
Hey! 1 - 10 bricks, let's start the trend again!**

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 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  
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  
Collections Assistant .....Cora Hermann-  
Wickham  
Docent.....Amy Power



Offices located at Heritage Museum  
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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 Cora Hermann-Wickham

## Clinton-Copeland Co. Holly Brand Chocolates Box ca. 1910-1930 80.13 (15)

This attractive Clinton-Copeland Co. box originally held 8 ounces of the company's Holly Brand Chocolates. The lid depicts a young lady with blonde hair and a yellow halo looking and smiling back at the viewer. Her loose-fitting blue gown with red accents and lace trim paired with pink high-heeled shoes make for an eye-catching design for a box of chocolates. This is in line with the reputation of the company, or as an article from *The Burlington Evening Gazette* (May 4, 1907) states; the "Clinton - Copeland Company take high rank among wholesale confectioners of the Middle West," and their "Holly Chocolates [...] are made of the very purest material in the cleanest candy kitchen in the country by expert workmen."

The box reads:

*"Net Weight Eight Ounces  
Clinton - Copeland Co. Burlington IA"  
8" x 4" x 1" in. box*

Holly Brand Chocolates manufactured by the Clinton-Copeland Company developed from the Clinton-Copeland Candy Company, organized in 1898. In 1905, Clinton - Copeland Co. grew their business and built a four-story brick building for manufacturing and sale located at 100 - 102 - 104 South Fourth Street located conveniently directly south of the railroad tracks, making unloading raw materials and shipping final products an efficient process.

By 1907, the company held 125 employees at their manufacturing site and eight salesmen on the road to find a market for their goods in the states of Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, and Missouri. The company operated until the late 1930s when the company dissolved. Today, there are remnants of the painted Holly Brand Chocolates logo on the exterior of the south wall of the building.

In an article from *The Burlington Hawk Eye* (August 4, 1915), Robert Stoddart wrote an essay detailing a tour of the Clinton - Copeland Company and began by saying that the "visit to Burlington's best candy factory was entirely a success."



He goes on to describe all four floors and the basement of the building that manufactured Holly Brand Chocolates. The basement held raw materials and a well that sourced the water for the entire company. The main floor was used for business and packing, while the upper floors were where butter-scotch, fondant, dipped chocolates, caramels, and gumdrops were made.

At the close of the tour, all participants received a box of Holly Brand Chocolates and a ruler.

# 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

**Donations**

Jeff Heland  
 Judy Johnson  
 Greg Miller  
 Larry Ramer  
 Donald Kellar  
 Sharon Eisenmayer  
 Barb Bonnett  
 Jessica Gardiner  
 Diane Mueller  
 Don & Lori Weiss  
 Deb Bowen

**Memberships**

Rose Miller  
 Mark Brugge  
 Diane Sweeden  
 Debbie Bessine  
 Lindsey & John Fruehling  
 Marcia Stiefel  
 Mary Neihaus  
 Pan & Jim Farr  
 Terry Strother  
 Scott & Joanie Power  
 Lois Close  
 Linda & Dave Riley  
 John & Susan Randolph  
 Carolyn Nelson  
 Bob Boyle with C-Cat. Inc  
 Barb Bonnett  
 Diane Callaway

Dan & Lois Clark  
 Bettie Raines  
 Laurie Lata  
 Mary Ann Rhode  
 Duane & Bev Sherbondy  
 Jeff & Cathy Rucker  
 Fred & Marti Wetzell  
 Carol & Gary Brotherson  
 Judy Johnson  
 Terri & Berry Dowell  
 DaMisha McFarland-Pollock  
 Lindsey Buhmeyer  
 Greg Miller  
 Sherman Lundy  
 Henry & Sue Ann Hentzel  
 Larry Ramer  
 Barbara & David Miller  
 Julie Buhmeyer

## 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



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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).