

From the Executive Director

by Colton Overton

A few weeks ago in our “Stacks Room,” our electricians rewired and returned the room’s electrical features close to its original factory settings, bringing us closer than ever to completion. Now all of the sconces that the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Foundation for Historic Interiors sponsored and funded are operational! We will be sending out a separate flyer for the event on May 30 and May 31 in addition to the construction side of the room. That weekend has been formally dubbed “Snake Alley Days,” and we hope to reconnect with as many county museums, libraries, and conservation organizations as possible each year by reestablishing contact with Heritage Center visitors. In this manner, visitors to one organization are aware of the several others that may visit. New displays, refreshments, and kid-friendly activities will be available. Pay attention to your mail when your flyer or invitation arrives, we can’t wait to see you here!

As early as June 2025, the Viking Mississippi River Excursions will be in town, and I want to inform our hardworking volunteers of this. I’ve included the dates and timings below, but please be aware that they could still vary based on river levels. If any Silver cord students or volunteers would like to help steward our riverboat tourists, please call the Heritage Center at (319) 752-7449 or email Kay Swanson at kays@dmchs.org to schedule your availability.

As we open the locations for the season, we will also be releasing key access and scheduling for the Garrett-Phelps House and Crapo Park Log Cabin in May. If you are a frequent key holder and would want to pick up your key from me, please get in touch with us so we can arrange a time that works for you!

Viking Mississippi River Cruise Dates and Times

(May Change Depending on River-Levels)

| Date | Day | Time |
|------------|-----|----------------|
| 6/30/2025 | Mon | 9 :30– 4:30 pm |
| 7/10/2025 | Thu | 8 – 5 pm |
| 8/4/2025 | Mon | 9:30 – 4:30 pm |
| 8/14/2025 | Thu | 8 – 5 pm |
| 8/18/2025 | Mon | 9:30 – 4:30 pm |
| 8/28/2025 | Thu | 8 – 5 pm |
| 9/1/2025 | Mon | 9:30 – 4:30 pm |
| 9/11/2025 | Thu | 8 – 5 pm |
| 10/6/202 | Mon | 9:30 – 4:30 pm |
| 10/16/2025 | Thu | 8 – 5 pm |

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

Upcoming Events

Sounds of the Past - The Titanic and Other Disaster Related Music

Saturday, April 19

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.

Sounds of the Past - Historic Riverboat Melodies

Saturday, May 17

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, April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Wednesdays, May 7, 14, 21, 28

10 - 11 am

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.

Burlington History Club

Wednesdays, April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Wednesdays, May 7, 14, 21, 28

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, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Tuesday, May 6, 13, 20, 27

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.

Special Program

Location: Starr's Cave Nature Center

Saturday, April 5

10 am - 12 pm

Starr's Cave Site History, Stories, and Treasures
Note program held at Starr's Cave.

11627 Starr's Cave Park Rd. Burlington, IA

Hosted by Des Moines County Historical Society

Snake Alley Days

"Over the Stacks" and Gift Shop Unveiling

Friday, May 30

4 to 6 pm

Southeastern Iowa Symphony Orchestra, cash bar, heavy hors d'oeuvres. \$75 per person at the door. Note: admission is waived with mailed invitation.

Snake Alley Days

Kickoff

Saturday, May 31

10 am to 4 pm

Regular admission charged to enter the Heritage Center. Live museums, historic interpretations, vendors, activities. Admission go towards Garrett-Phelps House restoration.

Executive Director Office Hours

Fridays, 1 to 4 pm

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.

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 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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Forest Gahn, Honorary Board Member

2025-26 Officers

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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 Cora Hermann-Wickham

Object Number: 89.7

Item: Photograph Date: 1895

This family portrait, taken in 1895, depicts the three oldest children of Carl A. Leopold (1858 - 1914), most known for his involvement in the Leopold Desk Company, and Clara Starker Leopold (1859 - 1948). This is a rare photo of the young Aldo Leopold, who would become famous as an American environmentalist, writer, naturalist, and conservationist, among other titles. The final Leopold sibling, Frederic, was born the year this photograph was taken.

Born in Burlington, the Leopold siblings grew up at 101 Clay Street, in what is known today as the Starker Leopold House. The children's first language was German, although they became proficient in English at an early age. Their father would often encourage them to explore the nature and wildlife that Burlington and surrounding Southeast Iowa offered, and every August, the family would vacation near Lake Huron in Michigan.

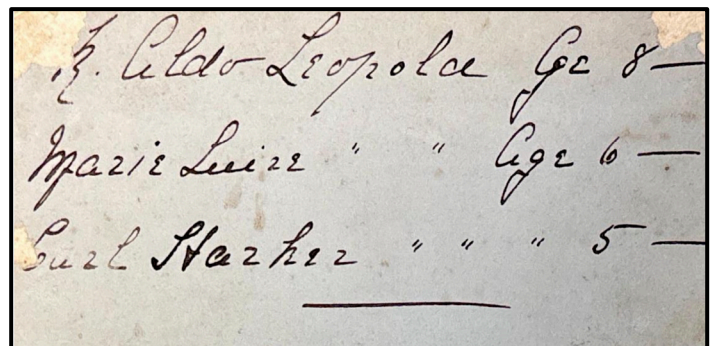
The early exposure to woodcraft, hunting, and simply observing nature sparked a lifelong interest in the outdoors. Aldo and Frederic pursued this passion through either their education or leisure time. Aldo studied conservation and land health at Yale University before becoming internationally famous for his ideas on conservation and ecology, while Frederic was involved in the family desk company after receiving an education in New Jersey and Wisconsin, and later focused his efforts on the wood duck population here in Burlington.

In celebration of Earth Day on April 22, this artifact serves as a reminder to carve out time and share a moment in nature with family and friends, perhaps retelling stories of the past while taking in the changing seasons and beautiful wildlife Des Moines County has to offer. Consider attending DMCHS's Town Hall lecture on April 5 at 10 am, located at Starr's Cave Nature Center, for a presentation about the site's history, stories, and treasures. We hope to see you there!



Left to right: Carl Starker Leopold, age 5; Marie Luize Leopold, age 6;
R. Aldo Leopold, age 8

Credit: Monfort & Hill Photographers, 207 1/2 Third Street, Burlington, IA



Donations & Memberships

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

In Memory of

William & Martha Pratt
Jeff Heland

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Russ & Annette Kuhlemeier
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Lindsey Schier
Jason & Mary Ellen Cox

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Ruth Ann Sandrock
Kay Weiss

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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Aldo Leopold, Age 8

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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.