

## From the Executive Director

by Colton Overton

Iowa's weather is undoubtedly fickle. When it snows, it makes our tasks at the museums more difficult since, one day, my team and I have to shovel as much snow as we can to keep the museum open. Simply wait a few days, and things will improve, as they say.

In between "The Stacks" and "My Dear Vinnie," exhibits proceed as usual. The stacks area appears taller and lighter thanks to new ceiling tiles. Our carpenter, Ellie Jacobs, installed an ADA ramp around the exhibits for the best possible view of the antiquities, and for that I am incredibly grateful. Additionally, I'm grateful for Preservation Station's kind contribution of banister railings and reused flooring for the ramp! When the ramp is finished, I can't wait to check it out because this makes it seem as period as possible with the room.

Additionally, I have been using my table saw to cut enormous sheets of acrylic to use as window-like inserts in the stack bookcases. It was decided to show the space to the public on May 30 and May 31 after meeting with the grant holders. The grant holders will be able to view the exhibit during a semi-private event on May 30. The Heritage Center will be open from 4:00 to 6:00 pm, and admission is \$75.00. Members of the community will also receive special invitations, but if you receive a letter, the museum will waive the admission fee. Live music, substantial hors d'oeuvres, and the grand opening of the exhibitions and new gift store are all planned. I proposed a networking opportunity on May 31 from a number of groups and individuals that represent a specific facet of Des Moines County Heritage and History. We anticipate great music, on-site food and beverage, and public

exhibits! On that day, we also hope to open Garrett-Phelps to the public.

Although admission will be charged, the proceeds from the event will go toward staffing and restoring the Garrett-Phelps House. As you are aware, the roof and brick exterior of Garrett-Phelps require significant conservation work. Although it's encouraging to think that Garrett-Phelps might get a rear porch this year, there are several issues with the structure's conservation that need to be fixed. We hope you can make it to the activities on May 30 and May 31. We hope this becomes a yearly tradition if everything goes well this year. The weekend is referred to as "Snake Alley Days." Look out for a separate flier in the mail.

As many of you are aware, Mary Krohlow, a friend of the museum and a beloved historian, passed away a few weeks ago. She had a plethora of historical knowledge about Des Moines County and was an inspiration. The Museum Board of Directors, employees, volunteers, and I would like to express our sympathies to the Krohlow family. Mary Krohlow was one of the numerous founders of our Historical Society at the Heritage Center and a cornerstone of the history community. We will be putting a plaque in her honor on a stack in the Library Exhibit on behalf of the Historical Society because of her efforts to preserve Des Moines County Heritage.

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 - Iowa Ragtime Saturday, March 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.

### **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.

### **Historic Newspaper Reading Wednesdays, March 5, 12, 19, 26 Wednesdays, April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**

**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.

### **New Program Burlington History Club Wednesdays, March 5, 12, 19, 26 Wednesdays, April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**

**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.

### **Executive Director Office Hours Fridays, 1 to 4 pm**

### **SilverCord Walk-In Tuesday, March 4, 11, 18, 25 Tuesday, April 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.

### **Spider Web Youth Center Wednesday, 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.

### **Snake Alley Days "Over the Stacks" and Gift Shop Unveiling Friday, May 30**

**4 to 6 pm**

Live music, 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.

### **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](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

### 2025-26 Officers

Chair .....Don Weiss  
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## 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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[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

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Reeves, Winona Evans, editor. *The Blue Book of Iowa Women: A History of Contemporary Women*. Press of the Missouri Printing and Publishing Company, 1914.

This month's "Out of the Collection" item reflects the contributions of women in Iowa history. It honors Women's History Month 2025 and the theme "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations," highlighting the transformative power of women who have shaped the world through education, mentorship, and leadership.

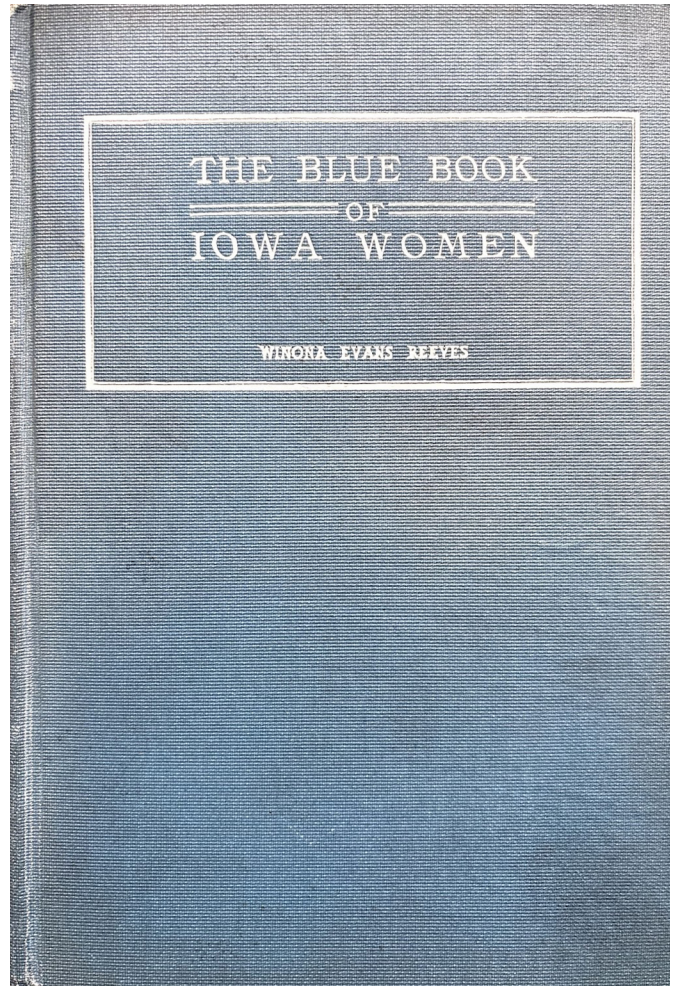
Published in 1914, *The Blue Book of Iowa Women: A History of Contemporary Women*, compiled and edited by Winona Evans Reeves, highlights many of the distinguished and remarkable Iowa women of the time.

From the preface:

*"No state in the union has produced a better or a higher type of womanhood than Iowa. From pioneer days until the present they have had a very helpful interest in the advancement of education, of the arts, of literature, of religious and moral training, in the great work of philanthropy and of social service in all of its phases. Some of them have been women of unusual talent and have a national reputation, and some have a world-wide reputation."*

This book includes women who made an impact in Des Moines County. Among them, Miss Lille West Brown Buck, or "Amy Leslie," was an actress, opera singer, drama critic, and author. Another influential woman, Miss Jennie Coulter, was known for opening a school for neglected children called "The Children's Mission." Mrs. Edith Forbes Perkins is named "one of the most interesting women in Iowa [...] a woman of striking personality and gracious manner" (Evans, p.121).

Two women artists are featured in the book as well. Miss Katherine H. Scott attended Burlington schools and later exhibited her work in oil portraits and miniatures in the St. Louis Expedition and other prominent galleries in



Chicago and western cities. From Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, Miss Harriet Ketcham, who was the original artist for the Iowa Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument in Des Moines, also has an individual biography in the book.

Please feel free to stop by the Heritage Center to request access to view the book and learn more about other celebrated women in Iowa History. Research and Collections Help is available during Cora's Office Hours on Fridays from 10 am to 12 pm or by appointment.

# 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

**Captain John & Norman Schiavoni**  
Patricia Bowman

## Donations

Win & Gail Boyd (Building Projects)  
Marilyn Juhlin (Black Hawk Rock)  
Herbert Price (Black Hawk Rock)

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Cheryl & Robert Nelson  
Barbara McRoberts  
Olive Sullivan  
Sherri & Dan Hutchcroft

## 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

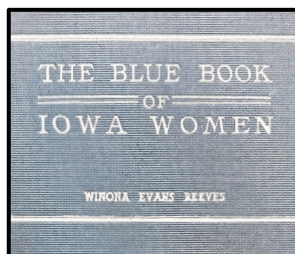
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## Museum Hours

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).