



Winter Newsletter January, February, March , 2017

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402-296-4770

website: www.casscountynemuseum.org/

2017 Board of Directors OFFICERS

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*The Board usually meets the fourth
Tuesday
of the month at 7:00 pm.*

CASS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION

Douglas Duey, Chairman

Pat Meisinger, Secretary

Leigh Jean Koinzan, Treasurer

Dave Pankonin, Board Member

Bruce Wiles, Board Member

MUSEUM STAFF

Margo Prentiss, Curator

Linda Duncan, Registrar

From the President's Desk....

As I write this message the mid-section of our country is in the grips of a bad ice storm. Winters haven't been as severe as those that I remember growing up. In the 1950's, as I recall, we had heavy snowfall accompanied with blizzard winds. I got to thinking about the horse drawn carriage that we have in the museum collection and thought that even with a buffalo robe and heated soap stone nestled near your feet, that riding through a snowstorm couldn't have been very pleasant. I also thought about a photograph in the collection of Dr. Cummins of Plattsmouth driving his 1901 Oldsmobile. It was a one-cylinder, three horsepower, tiller-steered, curved-dash car, which was more like a motorized horse buggy and cost \$650. A few weeks ago I decided to visit an old friend that I've neglected for more than 20 years, my 1928 Model A Ford. I brushed away the cobwebs and crawled onto the driver's seat and memories came flooding back to me of the good times I had in that old car. It was my first car, purchased in 1963 for a mere \$175. It was 35 years old and was already becoming a classic and honestly was all that I could afford. My father and I rebuilt the engine and gave the car a shiny new paint job. My friends loved riding in my car. It was a nice car for courting also because the two small front seats were so close together that the passenger was, by necessity, snuggled very close to me, the driver. The Model A Ford was extremely popular when it was introduced in 1928. The Model A was the biggest selling car because it was light weight and fast. It had a 45 horse power engine that could propel the car to a neck breaking 65 MPH. Unlike most cars which were offered in black only, the Model A was offered in 4 beautiful colors. Mine is Niagara Blue. It also was priced much less than its competitors at \$495. A 1928 Chrysler roadster was priced at \$1,555 and a Cadillac at \$3,940. The average annual salary then was \$1,153 and an average home cost \$4,918. One of the nicest things about the car was that it could walk right through snowdrifts without a struggle. The chassis was mounted high above the ground so that the car didn't get bogged down by deep snow. First gear, we called it "granny low", was a very low gear that pulled the car effortlessly up steep hills and through snow banks too. How far we've come since 1928 though. Now cars have every modern convenience including heated and cooled seats, horsepower above the 400 range for some and soon cars will not even require a driver! I don't know if I'm quite ready for driverless vehicles. In the mean time, I think that I'll air up the tires on my old friend the model A, give it a tune up and take it on a springtime ride through our beautiful county. I'd better get with it though, springtime isn't far off. Visit our museum when you can, enjoy a journey with us down memory road.

--Douglas V. Duey, President

Mission Statement: *The Cass County Historical Society shall collect, preserve, and study materials to document, interpret and present the history of Cass County Nebraska to the public.*

Temporary Exhibits

Exhibits are rotated in our Davis Conference Room and highlight different aspects of our Collection and County History.

"Celebrate America" Through March 4, 2017

We have pulled from our storage area several prints that have not been on exhibit for a while: the Declaration of Independence, a quote from a speech by Abraham Lincoln, and prints of Presidents Washington and Lincoln

"The Bill of Rights and You"

December 20, 2016 - March 4, 2017

The 225th anniversary of the Bill of Rights was December 15. This pop-up exhibit distributed by the National Archives and the Nebraska Humanities Council spotlights one of the most remarkable periods in American history. It talks about the importance of the Bill of Rights, its history and implementation and its impact today. Cass County Museum is one of seven museums and historical organizations in the state to be chosen to receive this exhibit.

"Isaac Wiles and the Great Seal of Nebraska"

January 3 through June 4, 2017

In conjunction with Nebraska's sesquicentennial celebration, we have installed an exhibit about Isaac Wiles who proposed the idea for the state seal and the motto "Equality Before the Law". Wiles was from Plattsouth and served in the state Legislature. The exhibit has been approved as an official "event" of the 150th celebration and is listed on the ne150.org website.

**Is the date highlighted on your address label?
If so, it means that your membership is due!
Please fill out the form on the back of the
newsletter and mail with your check to the
museum. Those who receive the newsletter by
e-mail will receive a notice when your
membership is due. Thank you for your
support!**

Special Events

Brown Bag Programs

The brown bag programs start at 12:00 and are over by 1:00. You are welcome to bring your lunch. Cookies and coffee will be served. The programs are free and open to the public.

Tuesday, February 14

"The Bill of Rights from a Library's Perspective"

Speakers: Karen Mier and Kirsten Wood
Plattsouth Library Director, Karen Mier, and Children's Librarian, Kirsten Wood, will talk about how the Bill of Rights affects libraries.

Tuesday, February 28

"The Bill of Rights: The Foundation of Our American Freedoms"

Speaker: Bill Reinsch

Attorney Bill Reinsch's talk will center on the historical roots and the legal developments as impacting and interpreting these rights.

Tuesday, March 14

"Isaac Wiles and the Great Seal of The State of Nebraska:"

Speaker: John Schleicher

John will talk about the history of the Great Seal and also throw in a little background about the political struggle for statehood.

Tuesday, March 28

"Nebraska History Day"

We will show a video from our archives filmed on Nebraska History Day, March 1, 1988

Caboose Update

The caboose has been repainted and the end seals have been replaced. We are waiting for new stencils for the lettering on the sides. . If you would like to donate to the caboose restoration, make your check payable to Cass County Historical Society and note that it is for the caboose.

Cornerstone Club....Memberships....Donations....Memorials

Received between November 16, 2016. and January 18,2017 Donors live in Nebraska unless otherwise noted.

CORNERSTONE CLUB

Granite

Oxbow Animal Health
John Miller

Plattsmouth State Bank
Lori Schneider

Limestone

W-M Farms, Inc.
Robert Meisinger, Pres.

Sandstone

Brian Harvey Funeral Home
Brian P. Harvey

Edward Jones
Bradley Ksiazek

Main Street Family Dental
Dr. William D. Moseman

Pankonin's Inc.
David & Lori Pankonin

MEMBERSHIPS

Century

Elton E. DeLesDernier, VA
Duane Hobscheidt

Promoter

Jim Case
Susan L. Clizbe, SC
Jean Howland
Kirk & Glenda Linder
Janet McCartney
Emerson & Norma Wiles

Booster

Richard & Stella Ruth Boettcher
Kola Curttright
Evan Holly
Garry & Becky Martin
H. Margo Prentiss
Ted & Carol Wehrbein
Deb Woster

MEMBERSHIPS,continued

Friend

Glen Comer
Dan & Patty Cunningham
Linda Duncan
Terry & Julie Duncan
Carol Gray
Fran Guthrie
Doris N. Hirz
Ruby Moss
Carl & Jayne Ofe
Margaret Rhylander

DONATIONS

Genealogy Donations

Brittany Mangus, UT
Katrina Richardson, OR

**Donations to Operating Fund
in memory of Jeanene Wehrbein**

Douglas V. Duey
Paul & Nancy McManis

Caboose Restoration Fund

Alyce Green
Joy Haswell
H. Margo Prentiss

Paper Cups, Ziploc Bags

Diane Berlett
Marilynn Meisinger

Apple Cider for Tree Lighting

Susan Rice

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of

Janice Freeburg

John & Carol Schreiner

Michael Ofe and

Susan Ofe Webster

Carl & Jayne Ofe

William Spradlin

William & Sally Babbitt

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of

Jeanene Wehrbein

James & Stephanie Ball
Ronald & Catherine Brandt
Jeanie Brookhouser
Dr. Alfred & Carolyn Gigstad
Alyce Green
Robert Hallstrom &
Gerald Stilmock
Herbert & Nancy Heil, CA
Betty Henry
Daniel & Alice Holtz
Richard P. Kimmel & Laurine
Kimmel Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Mrs. Bill Knorr, Bill Knorr, Jr,
Ann Knorr Snider
LeRoy & SharonAnn Loudon
Harold & Edith McCaw
Dean & Marilyn Meisinger
Fred & Pat Meisinger
Leland & Betty Meisinger
Robert & Jacqueline Meisinger
Arthur Murdoch
Kay Strong-Nicolas
Wade & Sue Nutzman
Dave & Lori Pankonin
Paul & Susan Rice
Steve & Marlene Rishel
John Schleicher
Norm & Meredith Schoch
John & Carol Schreiner
Michael & Mary Smith
William & Connie Starkjohn
Diana Duey Strokan
Ron & Camilla Svoboda
Dale & Carol Uhe
Sophia Vinduska
June Ann Wagner
Gary & Suzanne Wilson
Meg Zarybnicky
on behalf of her parents,
George & Rosemary Miller
Michael & Patricia Zeigler

Cass County Historical Society, organized in 1936, is dedicated to a mission of telling the history of Cass County since 1854, the year the county was opened for settlement. The Society's first permanent displays were housed in two rooms on the third floor of the Cass County Courthouse. In 1960, the present museum was opened at 646 Main Street in Plattsmouth.

Approximately one third of the museum's budget comes from the County. The rest of the financial support is from Memberships, Donations, Gift Shop Sales, Memorials and Grants.

To renew your membership or to become a member for the first time, please fill out the form at right and return to the museum.

MUSEUM HOURS

April through October:

Tuesday through Sunday: 12:00 to 4:00 pm
Closed Mondays and major holidays.

November through March:

Tuesday through Saturday: 12:00 to 4:00 pm
Closed Sundays, Mondays and major holidays.

Admission: \$2.50 for adults; children under 12 free.

FREE for Museum Members
Donations accepted.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

Individuals and Families:

- _____ **Patron (\$1,000 and up)**
- _____ **Benefactor (\$500 and up)**
- _____ **Investor (\$250)**
- _____ **Century (\$100)**
- _____ **Promoter (\$50)**
- _____ **Booster (\$30)**
- _____ **Friend (\$15)**

Businesses (Cornerstone Club)

- _____ **Marble (\$1,001 and up)**
- _____ **Granite (\$501-1,000)**
- _____ **Limestone (\$251-500)**
- _____ **Sandstone (\$100-250)**

Name _____

Address _____

City, State _____

Zip _____

Phone # and e-mail _____