



Special Newsletter June 2017

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website: www.casscountynemuseum.org/

2017 Board of Directors

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

CASS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION

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MUSEUM STAFF

Margo Prentiss, Curator

Linda Duncan, Registrar

From the President's Desk....

Here it is, Memorial Day in Cass County Nebraska. When I was young most people referred to it as Decoration Day. This morning I glanced out the back window of my home into the garden and there stood a peony bush filled with light pink blooms. That peony bush has done a lot of traveling in its lifetime. It was transplanted from central Iowa in 1885, brought across the Missouri River on a ferry boat, hauled by covered wagon and transplanted near my Great Grandparent's sod dugout in north central Kansas. It was dug up again in 1917 and planted behind the family home in Sabetha, Kansas and then finally transplanted again to my parents home in Plattsmouth, Nebraska. It's a symbol of strength and endurance, symbolic of our nation I believe. Looking at that ancient bush brought memories flooding back of celebrations where the humble peony took center stage, literally. High School graduation day was celebrated in our large auditorium and local residents lined the stage with peony and iris blooms so that the whole auditorium was filled with their fragrance. Memorial Day followed with a large parade that ended at the cemetery where graves were adorned by flowers, including peonies. I wonder if young people today know the history of Memorial Day, a day of remembrance for those who have died in serving America. Memorial Day, or Decoration Day as it was first called was born out of the Civil War. General John Logan officially proclaimed the special day on May 5, 1868 then Congress passed the National Holiday Act of 1971, declaring that Memorial Day would be held on the last Monday each May. I continue to believe that pioneer museums like our Cass County Historical Museum provide a valuable resource of history to young and old. Our Curator was very busy this past several weeks with conducting tours for elementary school children. She remarked to me that she was pleased that the children had asked lots of questions and that many seemed to be hungry for pioneer history knowledge. Although American History is taught in our schools I believe that our Museum can fill in the blanks with information unique to our county, our American experience. Memorial Day also signals the beginning of summertime activities; picnics with hot dogs, homemade ice cream, lemonade and family fun. So, enjoy summer in Cass County Nebraska and "stop to smell the flowers" along the way!

--Douglas V. Duey, President

Temporary Exhibits

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

"Isaac Wiles and the Great Seal of Nebraska"

A shortened version of the exhibit will continue through August 27 in the front display case.

"Quilts"

June 6 through August 27, 2017

An exhibit of quilts donated to the collection in 2015 and 2016.

"Cass County and World War I"

June 6 through August 27, 2017

After our exhibit two years ago about World War I, more items were donated, so those will be on display in the Conference Room during the summer.

Events

Cook Family Reunion

Sunday, June 25

Descendants of Joseph and Mary Cook will have a reunion in Plattsmouth on June 25.

Our Cook Log Cabin will be open from 12:00 to 4:00 that day.

Rock Bluffs School Summer Open House

Sunday, July 16

2:00 to 4:00 pm.

Mark your calendars for our annual summer Open House at the one room brick schoolhouse, constructed in 1870 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

*** We are a "Blue Star Museum" ***

We have once again registered as a "Blue Star Museum". From Memorial Day to Labor Day, we will offer free admission to active military personnel and their families. To learn more about Blue Star Museums and for a list of other Nebraska museums participating, go to:

<http://www.arts.gov/national/blue-star-museums>

Special Visitors



Students and Teachers from Plattsmouth Early Childhood Center in the museum courtyard.

**Photograph by Patti Jo Petersen,
Plattsmouth Journal**

April 24th was a fun, exciting day as over 100 children from the Early Childhood Center came to our courtyard to hear the Mayor's proclamation declaring April 24 to 28 "The Week of the Young Child".

During May, 130 Third Graders from Plattsmouth Elementary visited the Museum, then walked down Main Street learning about some of the buildings along the way, and ended with a tour of our log cabin and caboose.



Mrs. Martin's 3rd Grade Class

One student wrote: "Thank you for letting us come in and putting a lot of noise in your building. We learned a lot of new things"

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

Received between April 1 and May 31,2017 Donors live in Nebraska unless otherwise noted.

CORNERSTONE CLUB

Sandstone

Cornerstone Bank,Murray
Russ Henning,Branch Manager

Rishel & Pfeifer, PC
Steve E.Rishel

MEMBERSHIPS

Investor

Mel Luetchens

Century

William & Sandra Allgeier
David & Lori Pankonin
Dr. Charles & Beverly Stoehr
Diana Strokan
Roxanne Wiles &
Kristin Williams (new)
Ken & Meg Zarybnicky

Promoter

Anne Begley
Connie Deminski
Vince & Melladee Perry, MO

Booster

James & Stephanie Ball
Jerry & Margaret Ann Blackwell
Thomas Carneal, MO
Carl & Linda Glup
Doris Landon
Christine M. Myers, CA
Dean R. Podoll

Friend

Ken Beckman
Diana Capaldi, PA
Sharon Cook Chamberlin, NM, new
Betty Fischer
Eldonna Forrest
John & Marcia Kriskey
Mary Beth Kriskey
Tony LaHoda
Paul & Nancy McManis
Vernelle Mock, KS
Ron Rookstool
Sharon Shelley
Elizabeth Thorpe, UT, (new)

DONATIONS

Shawn Mowery
Stephanie Whitson

Paper Products and Coffee

William & Sandra Allgeier
Diane Berlett
Betty Henry
Del & Glenda Hervey
Dean & Marilyn Meisinger
Vince & Melladee Perry
Margo Prentiss
Betty Reichart

Donation to purchase

Paper Products

Alyce Green

Genealogy Donations

Dixie Lee English,CA
Thomas Reitter, CA
Suzanne Silk, FL
Kari Stenson, PA
Rhonda White, CO

Caboose Restoration Fund

Joy Haswell

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of

Janice Lancaster Hild

Diane Berlett
Martha Carneal Chandler
Thomas Carneal
June Ann Wagner

Margaret Toman Ingwerson

June Ann Wagner

Verona Petereit

Dr. Charles & Bev Stoehr
June Ann Wagner

New Items in our Gift Shop

Nebraska Postcards
Nebraska Stickers
Souvenirs from Nebraska's
Centennial 50 years ago:
Bow ties
String ties
Centennial seals

Oral History Project

We now have a touch-screen computer set up so that visitors can watch some of the oral history interviews. Each lasts about 20 minutes. Purchase of the touch screen computer was made possible by a grant from the Plattsmouth Community Foundation.

Log Cabin

Renovation of the Cook Log Cabin is complete. A new sign has been installed which gives a brief history of the cabin and lists the donors who made the renovation possible. The project was funded in part by a grant from Cass County Tourism.

We look forward to descendants of Joseph and Mary Cook visiting the cabin on **June 25**, during the Cook Family reunion.

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 and mail with your check to the museum.

Our Fiscal Year ends JUNE 30; your renewal before that date will help us end the year without a deficit.

**Thank you for your support!
(Those who receive the newsletter by e-mail will receive a notice when your membership is due.)**

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 &
Active Duty Military Personnel.**
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 _____