



## Summer Newsletter July, August, September 2017

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402-296-4770

website: [www.casscountynemuseum.org/](http://www.casscountynemuseum.org/)

### 2017 Board of Directors

#### OFFICERS

#### PRESIDENT

**Douglas Duey**, Plattsmouth

#### VICE PRESIDENT:

**Susan Rice**, Nehawka

#### SECRETARY

**Pat Meisinger**, Plattsmouth

#### TREASURER

**Diane Berlett**, Plattsmouth

#### BOARD MEMBERS

**Sandra Allgeier**, Plattsmouth

**Don Gappa**, Plattsmouth

**Del Hervey**, Plattsmouth

**Bev Hirz**, Plattsmouth

**Mel Lutchens**, Murdock

**Paul McManis**, Louisville

**Nancy McManis**, Louisville

**Jon Oliver**, Weeping Water

**Roger Schuette**, Plattsmouth

*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....

This morning is a steamy one here in Cass County Nebraska. In late June we suffered a severe windstorm, with straight-line winds topping 125 mph. Many ancient trees were toppled, including a 225 year old oak tree and 140 year old walnut tree at my house. After 42 truckloads of debris hauled to the landfill I'm nearly done with the cleanup. Unfortunately, it may take many months for eastern Cass County to have all of the clean up done.

Our last historical society director's meeting was a few days after that storm so we decided as a group to drive to Indian Springs Recreation Area in Plattsmouth to see if our windmill was harmed by the storm. Luckily it sustained no damage. While we were there we saw numerous fishermen enjoying the evening with fishing poles in hand, catching fish from the city pond. Someone remarked about the abundance of cattails growing around the perimeter of the pond and that remark began a discussion about the importance of cattails to our pioneers and Native Americans. Years ago, when I was finishing college, I had read a book about pioneer days in Nebraska and the foods that they and Native Americans relied on for sustenance.

Cattails, reportedly, played a fairly significant role. Virtually every part of a cattail is edible, including the rhizomes, the white stems and leaf bases. Even the young flower spikes are edible as well and the pollen was used during pioneer days as a thickening agent for soups and stews. A poultice was devised by native Americans to treat burns and wounds. Our early immigrants learned from Native Americans the value of this abundant source of food and remedies. Interestingly, no green plant produces more starch per acre than cattails. Plans were under way to feed American soldiers with that starch when WWII ended. Cattails can produce 6,475 lbs. of starch per acre.

Before you go to a pond to dig up cattails, however, you need to understand the dangers to avoid. Cattails are great vegetation to pull pollutants from the water and because of that unless the water is pollution free it wouldn't be wise to consume them. Also, there are different types of vegetation that look very similar to cattails that are poisonous. I learned that lesson the hard way. When I was still in college I was over-zealous in wanting to share my newly discovered knowledge about cattails with my family. On an Easter Sunday my father suggested that my cousin and I go to the city lake to gather some watercress for salad and growing near by were cattails, or so I thought. We gathered a few, took them to the family gathering, chopped up the roots to mix in with the watercress salad and low and behold everyone in attendance at that family dinner nearly choked to death. It was like having nettles in your throat. We had mistaken some form of lily for cattails. My family members won't let me live that one down and remind me of that serious event every time I suggest that we try to eat something a bit out of the ordinary.

Enjoy summer in Cass County Nebraska and please stop into the museum when you can. We appreciate your ongoing support and could not exist without it.

**--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.

**"Isaac Wiles and the Great Seal of Nebraska"**

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

**"Quilts"**

**through August 27, 2017**

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

**"Cass County and World War I"**

**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.

**"Memories of Korn Karnival"**

**August 29 through October 29, 2017**

Our annual exhibit in conjunction with the Harvest Festival will feature photographs and memorabilia from the Kass Kounty King Korn Karnival, which was first held in 1932.



John Bestor as "Popeye"  
1932 Korn Karnival

From the Archives:

**Fourth of July in Plattsmouth  
140 Years Ago!**

The following article appeared in the Nebraska Herald, June 28, 1877:

"There will be an elegant display of Fireworks in Plattsmouth on the evening of the 4th. 101 guns will be fired and \$101 worth of Fireworks shot off from High School Hill."

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Special Events

**Cass County Fair**

**August 9-12**

Come visit us at the Fair!  
We will once again have a booth in the Expo Center.

Weekend of August 19-20

**The Museum will be closed**

**Saturday August 19 and**

**Sunday August 20**

so that the staff and volunteers can travel to view the Total Solar Eclipse.

**Annual Pie Sale during Harvest Festival  
September 8-9**

The theme of this year's Plattsmouth Harvest Festival is "Celebrating 150 Years of Harvesting the Good Life". We will be open special hours 10 am to 4 pm on September 8 and 9 and will have our Annual Pie Sale both days. This sale of home-baked pies is our major fund raiser each Fall. Our log cabin and caboose will also be open both days from 12:00 to 4:00.

**Smithsonian Magazine Museum Day  
Saturday, September 23**

Along with other museums nationwide we will offer free admission to visitors on September 23. This is a great time to introduce friends who are not members to the museum. Go to the Museum Day Live! website for details.

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

Received between June 1 and July 20,2017. Donors live in Nebraska unless otherwise noted.

### CORNERSTONE CLUB

#### Sandstone

John's Appliance,Sales & Service

John Baroni

Matt Baroni

Pinnacle Bank

Alan Mueller

### MEMBERSHIPS

**(received before June 30 for**

**2016-17 Fiscal year)**

#### Benefactor

Douglas V. Duey

Bernice H.T. Fahlberg

#### Century

Glenn & Sharon Eager

Del & Glenda Hervey

Fred & Pat Meisinger

Elizabeth Miller, FL

Glenn E. White,FL

#### Promoter

James E. Case

A.Dale & Loretta Draper

Virginia L. Hanke,RI(new)

Jean Sayles-Jacobson

Paul & Patty Lambert

Kevin & Lori Larson

Jim & Claudine Mitchell, MO

Janet Moore,CA

#### Booster

Eleanor J. Box,TX

Sheryl Oviatt

Del & Diana Puls

Betty Reichart

George H. Sayles

Virginia Spangler

#### Friend

Joann R.Hill

Donald Jacobson, IA

Kay Strong Nicolas

Susan Petersen

### MEMBERSHIPS

**(received after July 1 for  
2017-18 Fiscal year)**

#### Promoter

Kevin P. Bertrand, CA

Harlan Seyfer

#### Booster

Keith N. Bystrom (new)

\*\*\*\*\*

**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.**

**Thank you for your support!**

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

\*\*\*\*\*

### New Roof

If you drove by the museum  
between July 13 and 17, you  
probably noticed a dumpster and  
orange cones in front of the  
building. The roof of our main  
building sustained hail damage in  
one of the June storms so a new  
roof has been installed!  
Luckily we caught the problem  
before there were leaks inside.

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

We have once again registered as a  
"Blue Star Museum". Until 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-museum](http://www.arts.gov/national/blue-star-museum)

### MEMORIAL FUND

#### In memory of

Mary Johnson

Glenn E. White

#### Nancy Tritsch

Glenn E. White

#### Vivian Tunnell

Janet Moore

### DONATIONS

Donation in honor of  
Richard & Elinor Mougey  
on their 65th Wedding

#### Anniversary

Alyce Green

### Genealogy Donations

William Brackett, MI

Dixie Lee English, CA

Rachael Greenwalt, OR

Virginia L. Hanke, RI

William Hassler, OR

Vanice Mueller

Darlene Pope, WA

Sheila Winkler

### Caboose Restoration Fund

Joy Haswell

Cass County Historical

Society Memorial Fund

### Cabin Restoration Fund

Paul & Nancy McManis

### Rock Bluffs School Fund

Charles & Irene Warga

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* \_\_\_\_\_