From the President's Desk....................... by Douglas V. Duey, President

Here we are during the Season of Light and at the beginning of a New Year. Some evenings I drive around our county to observe how families and business owners decorate their buildings for the holidays. It is the "lights" that raise my spirits. Light has been a part of Christmas time for generations. Candles and fires burned to light the long, dark nights and symbolize the coming light of springtime.

Our museum had a wonderful evening during Hometown Holidays in Plattsmouth. Although it was a rainy, cold evening we had a large number of visitors. I enjoyed working at the Cook Cabin and this year was especially impressed by the enthusiasm expressed by our guests. Children inquired about all sorts of things. They wondered if cabins were always so dimly lit, with only kerosene lamps, and wondered how they could do their homework with such little light. Del Hervey, one of our directors, had once again prepared wassail for our guests and several people asked what wassail was before drinking it. I explained that it is made from apple cider, cinnamon sticks and cloves and that the custom of wassailing originated in England primarily as an agricultural ritual focused on apple orchards. To recognize the trees in the middle of winter and to ensure a good crop for the following spring and summer, a group of children went a wassailing through the orchards, singing along the way, sprinkling wassail on the apple trees as they walked. Everyone enjoyed the wassail and cookies. Several children asked where the kitchen was in a log cabin and I told them that they were looking at it. I explained that there were no kitchen counter tops, but rather that all food preparation took place on the kitchen table. I went on to say that prior to electricity that the wood burning kitchen stove was perhaps the most valuable possession for a pioneer family. It cooked all of the food and boiled the water for baths, etc.. Our young visitors seemed to gain a greater appreciation for modern conveniences. We had a large number of visitors from Omaha this year and it struck me that they were searching for the Christmas Spirit and that they found it that evening in our 19th century community and found magic in our cozy old log cabin.

I believe that there is a renewed interest in the history of our country and that our museum plays a role in communicating that important knowledge of what was, what is, and what the future may hold. As Mark Twain said, "history may not repeat itself, but it rhymes pretty well". As we enter a new year I wish you all peace and happiness and that this Season of Light will fill your hearts.

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 Permanent Collection and County History.

**World War I:**
**Remembering those who served**
**October 2, 2018- January 5, 2019**
November 11, 2018, marked the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. We have on display some recently donated photographs, uniforms, and other items used by Cass County soldiers who served in the war.

**John Falter**
**January 8 - March 2**
We will exhibit a selection of prints and **Saturday Evening Post Covers** by Plattsmouth native, John Falter. Also on view will be a painting "The Heights" donated by Falter in 1969.

**Women Who Made History in Cass County**
**and "Rightfully Hers"**
**March 5 - April 28**
March is "Women's History Month". We will have on exhibit photographs and information about women who were important to the history of our County. Also on view will be a "Pop up exhibit" entitled "Rightfully Hers" commemorating the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment. It has been made available to us from the National Archives.

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Results of Annual Meeting
At our Annual Meeting, November 8, Doug Duey, Pat Meisinger and Diane Berlett were re-elected to their positions as President, Secretary and Treasurer. Del Hervey was elected Vice President to replace Susan Rice who retired after 32 years on the Board.
Susanne Astley and Roger Schuette were re-elected to three year terms on the board. Roger Wehrbein was elected to a three year term to fill the position held by Del Hervey. Brad Ksiazek was elected to fill the remaining two year term of Jon Oliver expiring in 2020. Volunteers were recognized for donating a total of 620 hours.

Following dinner, a program was presented by Butch Bouvier and Sterling Fichter. Mr.Bouvier told about the return of the white pirole and Mr.Fichter portrayed John Colter of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Brown Bag Programs
The programs, free and open to the public, begin at 12:00 noon and are over by 1:00. Bring a sack lunch if you like. Coffee and cookies will be served.

**Tuesday, February 12, 2019**
"View from the Standpipe: John Falter's World"
In conjunction with our Falter exhibit, we will show the 1980 NET interview with John Falter.

**Tuesday, February 26, 2019**
"The History of our House: 968 Years of History"
**Speaker: Judith Bell**
Mrs. Bell has written a book about the history of her house in Cass County. Families who lived in the home previously include the Coles, Spanglers and Wiles.

**Tuesday, March 12, 2019**
"Women who Made History in Cass County"
**Speaker: Margo Prentiss**
The Museum Curator will talk about some of the women important to Cass County History.

**Tuesday, March 26, 2019**
"Nebraska Women Artists before 1945",
**Speaker: Lonnie Dunbier**
Mrs. Dunbier has been researching Nebraska women artists active before 1945 and, so far, has found over 600! The focus of her program will be artists from our area, such as Ione Dovey

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Remembering Mr.Haswell
Joy LeRoy Haswell passed away November 29 at age 90. As a former Paint Shop Foreman for the Burlington Northern Railroad, he took great interest in our Caboose. He remembered when the Caboose was first given to us and when we needed funds in 2016 to renovate the Caboose, he started donating. For the past two years, he made a donation every month to the caboose fund, thus building up a nice balance to help with future repairs.

Membership Renewal Time???
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. (Those who receive the newsletter by e-mail will receive a notice when your membership is due.)
Memberships....Donations....Memorials
Received between Oct.1 and December 18,2018. Donors live in Nebraska unless otherwise noted.

CORNERSTONE CLUB
Limestone
N & B Henry Rentals
Betty Henry

W-M Farms,Inc
Robert Meisinger

Sandstone
Brian P. Harvey Funeral Home
Brian P. Harvey

Duane L. Hobscheidt

Henry Hobscheidt Motors
Jeffrey Henry

McKnight Family Dental
Dr. James McKnight, DDS

Pankonin's Inc
David Pankonin

MEMBERSHIPS
Century
Tom & Kathy Copmann, FL
Elton E.DeLesDernier, VA
Frank & Nora Eyster
David & Sharon Lybarger
Paul & Janet McCarty
Jim & Colleen Peterson
Virginia & Debby Hennings, CA,
in memory of Gerald Hennings

Promoter
Roger & Linda Behrns
Diane Berlett
Richard & Stella Ruth Boettcher
Jim Case
Glenn & Sharon Eager
George & Arlene Eledge
Jim Elworth, IN
Kristin Friedrich, CA
Evan Holly
Margo Prentiss
Bill & Marilyn Rishel
Julie Schmale
Jon & Dee Schuetz
Michael Schultd
Tom & Della Sullivan
Frank & Joyce Swanson
Charles & Irene Warga
Dan & Marlys Wehrbein

MEMBERSHIPS,continued
Booster
Louis & Lola Austin
Larry & Elly Biederman
Mike & Shelia Coen
Kola Ann Curtright
Renee Hart-Thakur
Doris N. Hirz
Terry & Georgia McCarl
Marilyn Maines, AZ
Garry & Becky Martin
Gene & Evelyn Meier
Donald Skalak
Ted & Carol Wehrbein
Virginia Wickham, MO
Cynthia Wilcox
Deb Woster

Friend
Jeanie Brookhouser
Jim & Alice Miller Bryant, new
Millard & Janice Carnes
Judi Cook
Dan & Patty Cunningham,gift
Mark Current, new
David Duey, gift
Linda Duncan
Terry & Julie Duncan,gift
Natasha Duran, NM, gift
Cierra Earl, KY, new
Myrna Esluer
Sterling Fichter,IA, new, gift
Fran Guthrie, OR, gift
Carol Gray
Greg & Rita Hartel
Carroll Hudson
Ruby Moss, gift
Carl & Jayne Ofe
JoAnn Pryor, CA
Betty Altschaffl Root,CA
Minnie Mae Sayers
Laura Strickland,NJ,gift
Mike Tabler
Bill & Brenda Todd
Sophia Bierl Vinduska
June Wagner
Patricia A. Wagner

DONATIONS
Daisy Richards

Caboose Fund
Joy Haswell

Caboose Fund in memory
of Joy Haswell
Diane Berlett
Douglas V. Duey
Margo Prentiss

Genealogy Donations
Craig Coberly, FL
Cierra Earl, KY
Jim & Lori Stewart

Donations toward new roof
at Rock Bluffs School
George & Beverly Sullivan Ebersole
Larry & Cheryl Henry
Margo Prentiss
Employees of Plattsmouth State Bank

Donation for a Basket
for Annual Meeting
Jan Matisco, CA

MEMORIAL FUND
In memory of
Evelyn Christie
Nancy Siemoneit Teague
June Wagner

Jack Fullerton
Glenn E. White, FL

Martha McQuin
Diane Berlett
Jeanie Brookhouser
David & Sharon Lybarger
Ellyn Meisinger
Margo Prentiss
Betty Reichart
Steve & Marlene Rishel

Eileen Morehead
Douglas V. Duey

Eleanor York
David & Sharon Lybarger

Donation in memory of
David & Wilma Duey
Diane Berlett
Jeanie Brookhouser
David & Sharon Lybarger
Ellyn Meisinger
Margo Prentiss
Betty Reichart
Steve & Marlene Rishel

Lewis and Clark White Pirogue
Diane Berlett
Jeanie Brookhouser
David & Sharon Lybarger
Ellyn Meisinger
Margo Prentiss
Betty Reichart
Steve & Marlene Rishel

Douglas V. Duey
New Roof needed for Rock Bluffs School

Our 1870 one room school house, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is in need of a new roof. The current roof was installed in 1989.

We hope to raise funds by March 1 so that the work can begin in the Spring.

We already have a pledge of $500 plus $475 donated between October and December.

If you would like to donate to this project, please make out your check to Rock Bluffs School Fund and fill out the form below. Mail or deliver to Cass County Historical Society, 646 Main Street, Plattsmouth, NE 68048.

Thank you in advance for your support of this project.

\[Cass County Historical Society is a 501-C3 not for profit corporation. Contributions are tax deductible since the value of benefits received is minimal\]
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:**

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

**April through October:**
Tuesday through Sunday: 12:00 to 4:00 pm
Closed 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________________________________

Donations accepted