From the President's Desk:

Early this year, on January 2nd, Plattsmouth Main Street suffered a disastrous fire. The fire consumed the roof and second floor of what was originally the Waterman Opera House. It was originally built on the southwest corner of 4th and Main streets where a wood frame hotel, the Platte Valley House, stood from 1857 to 1881, when it was torn down. In late 1882, the three story Opera House was erected. The top floor had seating capacity for 1500 people. The stage was one of the largest in the state at 25′ x 48' with four dressing rooms. At the time of its construction, the Opera House was considered one of the finest and largest buildings in Plattsmouth. The first floor of the building was divided into three large store fronts. The initial construction cost was estimated to be $45,000 which was a very sizable amount in 1882. On July 31, 1892, the building had a horrible fire and was destroyed. It was rebuilt as a two story building.

At the time of this writing, it is uncertain what the ultimate fate will be of what remains of the grand old building. Thankfully, the Cass County Historical Society Museum has within its collection numerous photographs and records relating to the building and its various occupants throughout its 132 year existence. It's times like these that we are reminded of the important role that the Historical Society plays in preserving the rich history of Cass County, Nebraska.

Douglas 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
Throughout the year, we rotate exhibits in our Davis Conference Room and highlight different aspects of our Collection and County History.

“Valentines and Teapots”
January 28 through March 22, 2014
One hundred Valentines dating from 1883 to the 1960s are displayed along with teapots from the same time periods.

“Saturday Evening Post Covers”
by John Falter
Continuing through March 22
Plattsmouth native, John Falter, illustrated over 200 Post covers. This exhibit is a selection of Winter covers from our collection of 70.

“Beverly Gottsch Iron Collection”
March 25 through June 1
Beverly Brown Gottsch, a Plattsmouth native who now lives in Lincoln, recently donated her collection of 38 irons. Included are sadirons, charcoal irons, travel irons, children's toy irons and electric irons. They will be displayed in the Davis Conference Room beginning March 25.

Logos Contest
Deadline for entries extended to February 28
Remember to submit your ideas for a logo by February 28, 2014. The design entry must be rendered on an 8 ½” x 11” piece of paper. It may be in black and white or in color. Each entry should have the artist's name and address on the upper left corner of the back of the entry. If you have questions, call the museum, 402-296-4770.

Brown Bag Programs
The programs begin at 12:00 noon, are free and open to the public. You are welcome to bring your sack lunch; coffee and cookies will be served.

Tuesday, February 11
“Teapots and Valentines”
Speaker: Margo Prentiss
The Curator will talk about the current exhibit, highlighting the museum's collection of teapots.

Tuesday, February 25
“Courthouses of Nebraska”
George Miller Slide Collection
The late George Miller visited and took photos of most of the county courthouses in Nebraska. His slides were donated to the museum in 2013.

Tuesday, March 11
“Symbols in Stone”
Speaker: Roy Smith
Mr. Smith will show slides and talk about symbolism of the engravings on tombstones in Cass County.

Tuesday, March 25
“Plattsmouth History Alive on the Internet”
Speaker: Karen Mier, Library Director
Ms. Mier will update us about the Library's newspaper digitization project and the Nebraska newspaper website.

Recent Acquisition
The last phone booth in Plattsmouth was removed on Monday, December 2, and it is now in the collection of Cass County Historical Society! The Museum Curator happened to see two Windstream employees working around the booth across the street from the museum. She went over and asked if they were removing the booth and, if so, could the museum have it. Calls were made, permission was granted, and the booth was moved across the street! The booth is currently in storage, while we figure out the best way to display it.

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE!
http://www.casscountynemuseum.org/
Cornerstone Club...Memberships....Memorials....Special Donations
Received between November 26, 2013 and January 31, 2104. Donors live in Nebraska unless otherwise noted

**CORNERSTONE CLUB**
Marble
Bruce & Annette Wiles

Granite
Plattsmouth State Bank
Lori Schneider

Limestone
Pankonin's Inc
Dave & Lori Pankonin

Sandstone
Edward Jones
Brad Ksiazek

Main Street Family Dental & Orthodontics
Dr. Wm. Moseman, D.D.S

**2014 MEMBERSHIPS**
Patron
Beverly Brown Gottsch, new

Century
Dean & Marilynn Meisinger
Dr. Charles & Bev Stoehr

Promoter
Diane Berlett
Kathleen Best
Jim & Gerry Byrk
James E. Case
Paul & Patty Lambert
Paul & Janet McCartney
Tony & Pat Moreno
Dean R. Podoll
Charles & Evelyn Schafer
Norm & Meredith Schoch
Don Skalak
Sophia F. Vinduska

Booster
James & Stephanie Ball
Anne Begley
Kola Ann Curtritch
Dan & Dee Henry
Garry & Becky Martin
H. Margo Prentiss
Dewayne & Mary Prince
John Soennichsen, CA
George & Joanne Swarbrick

Friend
Allen Co. Public Library, IN
Joan Barnard
Glen Comer
Larry & Lauri
Cunningham, new
Linda Duncan
Terry & Julie Duncan
Dan Hall, new
Duane & Susan Hennings
Maureen McGrath
Paul & Nancy McManis
Joe & Jan Matisco, CA
Ellyn Meisinger
Carl & Jayne Ofe
Mary Lou Reed, MO
Deloras Shanholz
Rick & Chris Williams, new

**MEMORIALS**
In memory of
Bev Blotzer
Roy & Sharon Smith

Gertrude Brink
Jean Howland
Steve & Tammy Russell
Roy & Sharon Smith

Phyllis Ellingston
Am. Legion Auxiliary

Ralph Hild
Steve & Tammy Russell
Roger & Jeanene Wehrbein

Ruby Lancaster
The Carneal Family, MO.
Dave & Sharon Lybarger
Charles & Beverly Stoehr

Betty Meisinger
Diane Berlett
Joyce Heim
Norm & Betty Henry
Maxine Hild
Alan & Denise Horn
Jean Howland
Ted & Regina Leytham
Dean & Marilynn Meisinger
Fred & Pat Meisinger
Dan & Joyce Newburn
Carl & Jayne Ofe
H. Margo Prentiss
Del & Diana Puls
Wilma Puls
Douglas & Lee Ann Stander
Bill & Connie Starkjohn
Dan & Marlys Wehrbein
Roger & Jeanene Wehrbein
Ted & Carol Wehrbein

**MEMORIALS**
Karen Waters
Diane Berlett
Ramon & Lavonne Fusaro
Larry & Elizabeth Meisinger
Paul & Susan Rice
Norm & Meredith Schoch
Roy & Sharon Smith
Dr. Charles & Bev Stoehr
Joyce Swanson

**Donation to**
Rock Bluffs School
in memory of
Betty Meisinger
Joan Moore

**SPECIAL DONATIONS**
In Honor of
Jim and Lynn Bryant
on their
50th Wedding Anniversary
Kenneth & Marcia Hostetter
Paul & Susan Rice

Genealogy Donations
Daniel W. Lawton, NC
Barb Maslonka
Barbara Weilage, IA.

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New Roof for
Cook Log Cabin
One of our goals for 2014 is to put a new roof on the Joseph and Mary Cook Log Cabin. The cost estimate is $4,000. If you would like to make a donation to help with this expense, please send a check to Cass County Historical Society and indicate that it is for the Log Cabin Roof Fund.

Thank you!

If you have e-mail and would prefer to receive the newsletter electronically, please send us an e-mail at ecohsm@windstream.net and in the subject line put “electronic newsletter”.

Is the date highlighted on your address label?
If so, your membership is due. Please fill out the form on the back and mail or deliver with your check to:
Cass Co Historical Society
646 Main Street
Plattsmouth, NE, 68048

(If you are receiving your newsletter via e-mail, there will be a separate e-mail 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
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________________________________