



## Winter Newsletter February, March, 2016

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402-296-4770  
website: [www.casscountynemuseum.org/](http://www.casscountynemuseum.org/)

### 2016 Board of Directors OFFICERS PRESIDENT

Douglas Duey, Plattsmouth

### VICE PRESIDENT:

Susan Rice, Nehawka

### SECRETARY

Pat Meisinger, Plattsmouth

### TREASURER

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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.....

Cass County is covered with a layer of ermine white snow with more on the way. Some complain about winter in Nebraska, but not me. I've always liked snow and winter cold. It seems that it resets my biological clock in preparation for spring and summer. Last weekend I ventured out onto a frozen pond to test the ice. It was thick and perfect for ice skating. I believe that even at my advanced age I could navigate that pond with skates and might try to purchase a pair. When I was young my father would take my brother, cousin and me out into the countryside to a large frozen creek where we would skate for the longest time. Dad was an excellent skater, could spin on his skates, do somersaults, etc. After skating he would build a large fire along the edge of the creek where we roasted hot dogs and marshmallows. Those were good times.

Last weekend, as I peered down into that pond's translucent blue ice I was reminded of the city ice house that still existed when I was 6. My Dad took me there in early summer to purchase a large block of ice so that we could chip it up for our hand crank ice cream freezer. He explained to me that when the city lake became frozen deep each winter that the ice company would score the ice in a checkerboard fashion to make thick blocks of ice, cut with a saw and then hauled to the ice house. The ice house had thick walls, lined with straw bales and the floor was covered with a thick layer of saw dust and saw dust layers between the blocks to prevent them from freezing to one another. Before my time ice was delivered to homes daily for the ice box, forerunner of our modern refrigerators. The ice kept the milk and other perishables cold. The ice man had an important job and one that required strength to lug those large blocks from the ice wagon into each home. Thankfully today we are blessed with so many modern conveniences, including modern refrigerators. Enjoy winter in Cass County Nebraska and please visit the museum when you have the opportunity. We appreciate your support.

**--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**

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

#### **"Signature Quilts: Part II"**

**February 2 - May 1, 2016**

Following last year's exhibit of Signature Quilts, a few others were donated and will be displayed in this new exhibit.

#### **"Valentines from the 1920s and 1930s"**

**January 12 - March 26, 2016**

This exhibit is comprised of Valentines that were donated last year by Diana Wiles Capaldi. They were given to her father, Marion Wiles, when he was in grade school between 1925 and 30.

#### **"Recent Acquisitions"**

**January 12 - March 26, 2016**

"New" items are always being donated to the Historical Society. In this display are just a few items that have been given in the past year. One is a Musket from the Civil War era donated by Glen Comer.

#### **"Celebrating 80 Years:**

**History of Cass County Historical Society"**

**May 3 - July 31, 2016**

On May 20, 2016, Cass County Historical Society will turn 80!

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#### **Smithsonian Magazine Museum Day**

**Saturday, March 12**

In honor of "Women's History Month", we will join other museums across the country and offer FREE admission to non-members on March 12 from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. Invite your friends to visit that day.

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#### **Did you Know?**

In 2015, we had visitors from 31 states, 2 foreign countries (England and France) and 44 Nebraska towns (outside of Cass County). Our busiest month was September, with 450 visiting the museum and 230 visiting the cabin and caboose.

### **Brown Bag Programs**

The programs begin at 12:00 and are usually over by 1:00. They are free and open to the public. Coffee and cookies are served.

**Tuesday, February 9**

#### **"Ghost Towns of Cass County"**

**Speaker: Margo Prentiss**

Back by popular request! This program was presented in October and several people who could not attend at that time have requested that it be repeated. So, if you missed the first program, come on February 9 and learn about the many towns that have vanished..

**Tuesday, February 23**

#### **"Presidential Home Tour of Virginia"**

**Speaker: Pat Meisinger**

In honor of President's Day, Pat Meisinger will talk about a recent tour she took of Presidential homes in the state of Virginia.

**Tuesday, March 8**

#### **"Crown Jewels of the Wire"**

**Speaker: Paul McManis**

Paul McManis will bring samples from his large collection of glass insulators, devices that held electrical transmission wires to telegraphic poles.

**Tuesday, March 22**

#### **"Laura Ingalls Wilder"**

**Speaker: Kirsten Wood**

Kirsten, Youth Services Librarian at Plattsmouth Public Library, will talk about the new biography of Laura Ingalls Wilder printed last year. She will discuss whether the inaccurate portrayal of Native Americans in the books warrants the series being removed from library shelves.

**Tuesday, April 26**

#### **"Hops !"**

**Speakers: Annette and Bruce Wiles**

Come and learn about the new Hops production business that Bruce and Annette are developing on the former Plattsmouth golf course location.

**Mark your calendars for LIVING HISTORY DAY, APRIL 30, 12:00 to 4:00 !**

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

Received between November 20, 2015 and January 28, 2016. Donors live in Nebraska unless otherwise noted.

**CORNERSTONE CLUB**

**Granite**

**Plattsmouth State Bank**  
Lori Schneider

**Sandstone**

**Edward Jones**  
Brad Ksiazek

**Main Street Family Dental**

Dr. Wm. Moseman, DDS

**Pankonin's Inc.**

David & Lori Pankonin

**Stock Seed Farms (new)**

David Stock

**W-M Farms, Inc.**

Robert Meisinger, President

**MEMBERSHIPS**

**Century**

Elton DeLesDernier, VA  
Del & Glenda Hervey  
Beverly J. Hirz  
James A. Kraeger, ILL  
Charles & Evelyn Schafer  
Roy & Sharon Smith

**Promoter**

Diane Berlett  
James E. Case  
Paul & Patty Lambert  
Kirk & Glenda Linder  
Paul & Janet McCartney  
H.Margo Prentiss

**Booster**

Richard & S. Ruth Boettcher,  
Kola Curttright  
Evan & Eileen Holly  
Garry & Becky Martin  
Dorothy Meisinger  
Dan & Marlys Wehrbein  
Ted & Carol Wehrbein  
Deb Woster

**MEMBERSHIPS, continued**

**Friend**

Sara Thimgan Begley, IA  
Millard & Janice Carnes  
Glen Comer  
Linda Duncan  
Terry & Julie Duncan, gift  
Carol Gray, new  
Duane & Susan Hennings  
Carroll Hudson, new  
Elmer Jones, new  
John & Marcia Kriskey  
Bud & Linda Lewis, gift  
Paul & Nancy McManis  
Ruby Moss, gift  
Carl & Jayne Ofe  
Linda Rice  
Art Schleicher  
Virginia Spangler  
Larry & Rita Vallery, gift

**Members:**

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 to the museum. Those receiving the electronic newsletter will receive a notice by e-mail when their membership is due

**DONATIONS**

**Special Donation**

A generous donation to the operating fund was received from

**Martha McQuin**

The donation was made in recognition of the Historical Society's contribution to her "life long home community".

**Genealogy Donations**

Gail Blankenau  
Muriel Mahoney, MN  
Gary Rassi, IND

**Donation to Operating Fund in memory of Paul E. Brown**

Steve & Marlene Rishel

**Donation to Operating Fund in memory of**

**Samuel Morris Lowrey**  
Ainsley Wonderling, ILL

**Donation to Operating Fund in memory of Mike A. Ofe and Susan Ofe Webster**

Carl & Jayne Ofe

**Donation toward Renovation of Cook Log Cabin**  
Plattsmouth Conservancy

**Donation to Operating Fund**  
Joy Haswell

**MEMORIALS**  
**In memory of**  
**Richard Fischer**

Norm & Betty Henry  
Margo Prentiss

**Sandra Kaslon Glaeser**  
Dave & Sharon Lybarger

**Ruth Marker**  
DeWayne & Mary Prince

**Joan Solomon**  
Jean Howland

**Vera Solomon**  
Jean Howland

**Marjorie Spangler**  
Virginia Spangler

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**New book about Alvo**  
**Then 1890 ALVO 125 years NOW**  
**2015 Nebraska**

Pat Umland has published a new booklet about Alvo, Nebraska, in celebration of the town's 125th anniversary. She has donated a copy to our museum library and she also has copies for sale.

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* \_\_\_\_\_