



## Summer Newsletter August, September, 2016

646 Main Street, Plattsmouth, Nebraska 68048

ccohsm@windstream.net

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

**Diane Berlett**, Plattsmouth

#### BOARD MEMBERS

**Sandra Allgeier**, Plattsmouth

**Don Gappa**, Plattsmouth

**Del Hervey**, Plattsmouth

**Bev Hirz**, Plattsmouth

**Mel Luetchens**, 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 Nebraska looks beautiful this summer, with the farm crops growing tall and abundant. I wonder sometimes why I overhear so much grumbling at the coffee shop from people who believe that they don't have enough. Thankfully the farmers here in our heartland have become steadily more productive over the years and have brought forth bumper harvests. The average American family spends only about 10% of their income on food, a far cry less than others around the world have to spend for food. When I look at the ancient farm tools and equipment in our museum and compare those to the ultra modern and efficient farm equipment today I realize how far we've come over the past years. Also, I looked at some old wash boards and early washing appliances that we have in our collection and realized how fortunate we are to have automatic washing machines and readily available laundry detergent to make the job of washing our clothing so easy. This summer I visited the now defunct river town of St. Deroin, which is within Indian Cave State Park. There was a lady there preparing and selling lye soap like the pioneers did many years ago. She explained that pioneers didn't use different kinds of soap for laundry, bathing or dishes, but that the same "lye" soap was used for all purposes. It was made with three ingredients, tallow, water and lye. Tallow is rendered from beef fat. Lye is made from wood ashes. Pioneers would put ashes from the fireplace into a wooden container, then pour water over the ashes to soak. The water that seeped out was lye water. They then boiled the lye and tallow in a large cast iron kettle and stirred it until it thickened. They then poured the liquid into old dishes or hollowed out gourds to cool and harden. The lady further explained that pioneers used the soap to treat poison ivy and that people she has sold the soap to had used it for the same purpose with some success. Although I was a bit skeptical about that claim I bought a couple of bars of lye soap and gave one bar to a friend that battles poison ivy rash. They told me weeks later that remarkably it had relieved the itching and dried up the rash quickly. I believe that one of the greatest values of historical museums like ours is that it gives young people a glimpse into our past and enables them to recognize how blessed we are to have all of the conveniences that we do today, all of which make our lives so much better. Enjoy what remains of summer and stop by to visit our museum when you can.

**--Douglas V. Duey, President**

#### Coming Events:

September 9 and 10: Annual Pie Sale during Harvest Festival.

Brown Bag Programs beginning September 13.

Smithsonian Magazine Museum Day: September 24.

See details on page 2.....

**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.

#### **"Bohemian Town in Plattsmouth"**

**July 26 - October 23, 2016**

In the 1870s, there was a large influx of Czech immigrants into Plattsmouth. They settled generally in the western part of town from about 12th street to what is now Highway 75. The area became known as "Bohemian Town".

#### **"Remembering Beautiful Merritt Beach"**

**thru August 28, 2016**

A selection of photographs telling the history of Merritt Beach from the 1930s until 1989.

#### **"Karnival and Harvest Memories"**

**August 30 - October 23, 2016**

It's Fall Festival time and a look back at the history of the Korn Karnival and harvest events in Cass County. The exhibit includes photographs and memorabilia going back to 1916.

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#### **Brown Bag Programs**

The Fall Brown Bag Series will begin in September. The programs are at 12:00 and are usually over by 1:00. They are free and open to the public. Coffee and cookies are served.

**Tuesday, September 13 "The Assassination of Meriwether Lewis" Speaker: Kira Gale.**

Mrs. Gale has recently published a book Meriwether Lewis: The Assassination of an American Hero and the Silver Mines of Mexico. Copies of her book will be available for sale.

**Saturday, September 24, "The Language of the Fan" Speaker: Leigh Jean Koinzan**

Dressed in Victorian costume, Leigh Jean will tell us about romance language during Victorian times.

**Tuesday, September 27 "Health, Diet and Fitness" Speaker: Dr. Bryan Hufstader.**

We'll be sure the cookies served for this program are healthy ones! Dr. Hufstader has given programs throughout Nebraska about health and fitness.

The series will continue on Oct. 11 and 25, Nov. 8 and Dec. 13. Mark your calendars!

### **Plattsmouth Harvest Festival**

**September 9-10**

During the Harvest Festival, the museum will be open special hours, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.. Our **annual pie sale** will be both days beginning at 11:00 a.m. The farm shed in the courtyard, and log cabin and caboose at the end of Main will also be open from 12:00 to 4:00.

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#### **Plattsmouth Garden Club**

**Rededication Ceremony of the Blue Star Memorial September 10, 2:00 p.m.**

The Blue Star Memorial on the NE corner of Avenue D and Webster Blvd. in Plattsmouth has been restored by the Garden club. Plan to attend this rededication ceremony.

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

**Saturday, September 24**

**and Brown Bag Program at 12:00**

Along with other museums nationwide, we will be open for FREE for non-members on Saturday, Sept. 24 during Smithsonian Magazine Museum Day. At 12:00, there will be a special Brown Bag Program by Leigh Jean Koinzan on "the Language of the Fan".

#### **Grant Updates**

We were awarded a grant of \$8,450 from Cass County Tourism for restoration of our Cook Log Cabin!

We have raised \$8,305 toward the other half..

We also received a grant from the Plattsmouth Community Foundation for a touch-screen computer that can be used by visitors to view the oral histories we have recorded with long time residents of the county.

#### **Wish List:**

Volunteers to work on Weekends from 12:00 to 4:00

Volunteers to work on Tuesdays from 12:00 to 4:00.

Supplies: Paper cups, napkins, paper towels, toilet tissue, coffee, cream, sugar, liquid hand soap.

We are also raising funds for restoration of the Burlington Northern Caboose. So far, \$1,250 has been donated to the second phase of the project which includes scraping, repairing damaged areas and painting the exterior. If you would like to donate to the caboose project, please note on your check that it is for the "Caboose fund".

Your support is very much appreciated!

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

Received between June 2 and August 4, 2016. Donors live in Nebraska unless otherwise noted.

### CORNERSTONE CLUB

#### Sandstone

#### **John's Appliance Sales & Service**

John Baroni

#### **Pinnacle Bank**

Alan Mueller

### MEMBERSHIPS

#### Century

Maurice & Anita Carmichael

Spencer & Vivian Davis

Glenn & Sharon Eager

Ramon & Lavonne Fusaro

Cheryl & Dan Grimshaw

Dave & Sharon Lybarger

Fred & Pat Meisinger

Harlan Seyfer

Glenn White,FL

#### Promoter

Larry & Elly Biederman

Jim Case

A. Dale & Loretta A. Draper

Jean Sayles-Jacobson

Dennis & Donna Keil

Claudine & Jim Mitchell,MO

Martha Wetherill Rice, MO, new

Donald T. Skalak

Roger & Jeanene Wehrbein

#### Booster

Phyllis Buell

Jack & Joanne Glaze

Marilyn G. Maines,AZ

Gene & Evelyn Meier

Janet Moore,CA

Sheryl Oviatt

Betty Reichart

George H. Sayles

Beth Cook Shepard, new

#### **Members:**

Is the date highlighted on your address label? If so, your membership is due. Please fill out the form on the back and return to the museum. An e-notice will be sent to those who receive the newsletter by e-mail.

### MEMBERSHIPS,continued

#### Friend

Judy Andres

Howard & Judy Brugger,Gift

Joy Haswell

Joann Hill

Richard D. Mougey

Kay Strong-Nicolas

Susan Petersen

Patti Prime, CA, new

Robyn Prime, CA, new

Betty A. Root,AL

Cari Tilson & Olivia, new

#### DONATIONS

#### Special Donations

Kathleen A. Bestor,CA

Joy Haswell

Susan Rice

Daisy Richards

#### Donations to Operating

#### Fund in Memory of

Joey Elworth

Norm Henry

Dale Nickels

Nancy Nielsen

Rus Nielsen

Deloras Shanholtz

Alice Smith

Albert Wetenkamp

Douglas V. Duey

#### Donations to Operating

#### Fund in Memory of

Kenneth Todd

Steve & Marlene Rishel

#### Donation in appreciation

for Brown Bag Program  
Weeping Water Historical Society

#### Paper Supplies and Soap

Jan Matisco, CA

Pat Meisinger

### Genealogy Donations

Beverly Cook

Curtis Gomes, NY

Wade Hood

Robert Kolbe, SD

Dr. Wendy J. Linz, TN

#### DONATIONS

#### Cabin Restoration Fund

Marjorie E. Bock,CA

Beth Cook Shepard

#### Caboose Restoration Fund

Jean Sayles-Jacobson

#### Rock Bluffs School Fund

Charles & Irene Warga

#### MEMORIAL FUND

#### In memory of

Pete Halmes

Shirley Beine McDonald,CA

Norm Henry

Betty Reichart

Nancy Nielsen

Betty Reichart

Roger & Jeanene Wehrbein

Russell "Rus" Nielsen

Bill & Sally Babbitt

Betty Reichart

Roger & Jeanene Wehrbein

Betty Halmes Schanbacher

Shirley Beine McDonald,CA

Alice Smith

Cheryl Grimshaw

Kenneth & Marcia Hostetter

& Family

Dave & Sharon Lybarger

Kenneth Todd

Paul & Susan Rice

Carolyn Walton Winters

Dave & Sharon Lybarger

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* \_\_\_\_\_

**Visit our booth at the County Fair,  
August 10-13 !**