



Spring Newsletter April, May, June 2017

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website: www.casscountynemuseum.org/

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*The Board usually meets the fourth
Tuesday
of the month at 7:00 pm.*

CASS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION

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Margo Prentiss, Curator

Linda Duncan, Registrar

From the President's Desk....

Cass County Nebraska has been enjoying nice springtime rains. Just the other day I noticed rain water gushing down the street gutters in torrents and it reminded me of an earlier, simpler time of my life. When I was young, my brother and I had to invent our own fun. This was before the advent of computer games and cell phones, of course. Television was new and other than Captain Kangaroo, Howdy Doody and Hopalong Cassidy, there wasn't much else for a young boy to be interested in. Anyway, I did read a lot and read Mark Twain's book Huckleberry Finn three times. I dreamed of living close to the Missouri River, of building a raft and rafting down river all the way to New Orleans. I lived in a rather land-locked and fairly flat Kansas town when I was young, with no rivers nearby. On rainy days my brother and I would go out into the rain to sail crude homemade wooden boats and rafts down the rain swollen gutters. His was always faster than mine for some reason.

A few years after my family moved to Plattsmouth, I found myself living in house high on a hill overlooking the great Missouri River. It has a captain's walk, a flat area at the top of the house accessed by a stairway. The former owner said, when she was young, her family would often carry wooden folding chairs to the captain's walk to watch the river traffic. I felt blessed to be living in a county that had not one, but two great American rivers on its borders, the Missouri and the Platte. It was those rivers that brought forth the great migration of early pioneers, by steamboats on the Missouri as far as Plattsmouth and then by wagon along the braided Platte River. Information contained in records at our museum tell us that in the month of May, 1865 there were 2360 wagons, with their "westward ho" pioneers, that departed from the river docks in Plattsmouth. Steamboats on the Missouri were generally stern wheelers, with the paddles mounted on the rear of the boat rather than along the side. This made them more maneuverable and enabled them to grasshopper over the many sand bars. In doing a little research I found that there was even a steamboat named "Plattsmouth". The rivers of America are some of our most valuable treasures. For many years I would look forward to the deep noted whistle of river barges as they plied their way up and down the Missouri. The musical note was distinct from the train whistles that seemed to run musical competition with the boats. Both sounds were magical to me, along with the sounds of flapping wings and honks from the geese that follow the Missouri fly-way. Our earliest pioneers surely appreciated Cass County's two great rivers as we must also today. Enjoy springtime in Cass County Nebraska and remember to "Dance in the Rain".

--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.

"The Bill of Rights and You" Through June 4, 2017

The 225th anniversary of the Bill of Rights was December 15. This pop-up exhibit distributed by the National Archives and the Nebraska Humanities Council spotlights one of the most remarkable periods in American history. It talks about the importance of the Bill of Rights, its history and implementation and its impact today. Cass County Museum is one of seven museums and historical organizations in the state to be chosen to receive this exhibit.

"Isaac Wiles and the Great Seal of Nebraska" Through June 4, 2017

In conjunction with Nebraska's sesquicentennial celebration, we have installed an exhibit about Isaac Wiles who proposed the idea for the state seal and the motto "Equality Before the Law". Wiles was from Plattsmouth and served in the state Legislature. The exhibit has been approved as an official "event" of the 150th celebration and is listed on the ne150.org website.

"Plattsmouth in the 1860s" Through June 4, 2017

What was life like in Cass County in 1867 when Nebraska became a state? This exhibit will give you an idea of what Plattsmouth looked like in the 1860s and who served as some of the leaders. Most of the photographs in the exhibit are from our George Mann Collection.

"Quilts"

June 6 through August 27, 2017

An exhibit of quilts donated to the collection during 2016.

Special Events

Brown Bag Programs

The brown bag programs start at 12:00 and are over by 1:00. You are welcome to bring your lunch. Cookies and coffee will be served. The programs are free and open to the public.

Tuesday, April 11

"Cass County and World War I"

Speaker: Margo Prentiss

On April 6, 1917, the United States declared war on Germany. A few days later, the first men in Cass County enlisted in the service. The museum Curator will talk about some of the people from Cass County who served in the war and show photographs and documents from World War I that have recently been donated to the museum.

Tuesday, April 25

"The Week of the Young Child"

Speaker: Melinda Zimmerer

In honor of The Week of the Young Child, Melinda will give a powerpoint presentation about the Plattsmouth Early Childhood Center and Head Start.

Tuesday, May 9

"Journey to South Vietnam"

Speaker: John Williams

John Williams of Plattsmouth has just written a book about his experiences during the Vietnam War. Copies of his book will be available for purchase and there will be a book signing after the program.

**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 of the
newsletter 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. Thank you for your
support!**

LIVING HISTORY DAY

Saturday, April 29, 12:00 to 4:00

See enclosed flyer for details!

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

Received between January 20 and March 30, 2017 Donors live in Nebraska unless otherwise noted.

CORNERSTONE CLUB

Limestone

Cass County Bank
Dennis Oschner, Pres.

Stock Seed Farms, Inc.
David Stock

MEMBERSHIPS

Century

James M. Kraeger, IL
Dean & Marilyn Meisinger
Paul & Susan Rice
Charles & Evelyn Schafer
Roy & Sharon Smith
Walter J. Smith, TX
Richard Wassinger

Promoter

Diane Berlett
Donald Gappa
Leigh Jean Koinzan and
John Sullivan
Joe & Jan Matisco, CA
John S. Schleicher
Norm & Meredith Schoch
Steve & Marlene Wehrbein

Booster

Sara Begley, IA
Dan Hall
Cecil McKnight
Steve & Marlene Rishel
Art Schleicher
George & Joanne Swarbrick

Friend

Marcia Beck
Janice L. Benoit, LA
Lou Cole
Maxine Hild
Gladys Deterding Jones
Linda & Bud Lewis, gift
Maureen McGrath
Ellyn Meisinger
Mary Frances Reinke

MEMBERSHIPS

Friends, continued

Daisy Richards
Patsy Sawyer
Rita & Larry Vallery, IA, gift
Jim & Lois Witte

DONATIONS

Maureen McGrath
Daisy Richards

Genealogy Donations

Saul Arkwright, OH
Mark Feldhausen
Sharon Hall, TX
Jeff Lickei

Donation in honor of Alpha Delta Kappa Gamma Sorority's 60th Anniversary

Alpha Delta Kappa Gamma Sorority

Caboose Restoration Fund

Joy Haswell

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of

Georgia Endelicato

Charles & Irene Warga

Adeline Axt-Gochenour

American Legion Auxiliary
Post #56

Janice Lancaster Hild

Bill & Sandra Allgeier
Fred & Pat Meisinger

Margaret Toman-Ingwerson

Jeanie Brookhouser

Edward Jones

Maxine Hild
Many Friends

Vicki Swackhamer

American Legion Auxiliary
Post #56

Summer Hours

On April 1, we return to summer hours and will be open Tuesday through Sunday from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. We will however be closed on Easter weekend, April 15 and 16.

Paper Products Needed

If you see a good sale on paper products such as paper towels, paper cups, napkins, or toilet tissue, please consider buying a little extra and donating to Cass County Historical Society. Coffee for the brown bags and other events is also needed.

New Items in our Gift Shop

Nebraska Postcards
Nebraska Stickers
Souvenirs from Nebraska's
Centennial 50 years ago:
Bow ties
String ties
Centennial seals

Oral History Project

We now have a touch-screen computer set up so that visitors can watch some of the oral history interviews. Each lasts about 20 minutes. Purchase of the touch screen computer was made possible by a grant from the Plattsmouth Community Foundation.

Log Cabin

Renovation of the Cook Log Cabin is complete. A new sign has been installed which gives a brief history of the cabin and lists the donors who made the renovation possible. The project was funded in part by a grant from Cass County Tourism.

We look forward to descendants of Joseph and Mary Cook visiting the cabin on **June 25**, during the Cook Family reunion.

CASS COUNTY MUSEUM, 646 MAIN STREET, PLATTSMOUTH, NE.

LIVING HISTORY DAY!

"CELEBRATE NEBRASKA 150!"

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2017

12:00 to 4:00 pm

FREE ADMISSION; DONATIONS ACCEPTED



IN THE MUSEUM, 12:00 to 4:00

WEAVING

by Linda Barnard Duncan of Plattsmouth
The Matilda Soennichsen Pein Loom
will be on Exhibit.

ORGAN MUSIC

with Organist, Florene Nickles
playing the 1893 Packard Reed Organ

QUILTING

by Sandra Allgeier of Plattsmouth



**In the Davis Conference Room:
ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN**

May Basket Workshop for Children

Ages 5-10

Cass County Retired Educators will tell children about
the May Basket tradition and help them make a basket.

It takes about 20 minutes to make a basket.

Last session will start at 3:30.

**Children will also have an opportunity
to make a RAG DOLL,
roll a CANDLE,
and learn about NEBRASKA history
with a Nebraska 150 coloring book!**

ALL SUPPLIES FURNISHED!

ON MAIN STREET,

IN FRONT OF MUSEUM:

ANTIQUE TRACTOR SHOW

Main Street between 6th and 7th will be
blocked for tractors to display all day.

OUTSIDE IN THE COURTYARD:

SHED WILL BE OPEN

WITH DISPLAY OF FARM

EQUIPMENT

Learn about the evolution of the plow, see our
John Deere and Farmall Tractors and a variety of
barbed wire.

Also in the Courtyard:

ROPEMAKING

by William Duff of Weeping Water



AT THE END OF MAIN STREET

BY CABIN and CABOOSE:

10:00 TO 4:00 P.M.,

BLACKSMITHING

by Ron Rookstool of Plattsmouth



Cabin and Caboose will be open for tours.

Jim Furlong, our roving harmonica player, will be at various locations throughout the day!

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 _____