



WINTER NEWSLETTER February, March, 2018

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402-296-4770

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

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

Winter in Cass County, Nebraska, can bring forth extremely changeable weather, one day bright and warm, and the next dreary and cold. A few days ago, on one of those cold dreary days, I glanced at my indoor lemon tree and saw three large lemons ready for picking. I picked one and made lemonade for a taste of "summer". It seems to me that citrus fruit tastes a lot better during the cold winter months, why is that? I remember as a child each Christmas I received an orange in the toe of my Santa stocking. Those oranges were a gift from my Grandmother, although one year I did receive a lump of coal from her, really! I asked her why the coal and not an orange and she replied that she thought that I hadn't appreciated receiving oranges and thought she'd try something different. She explained that when she was young, living in a sod dugout, one Christmas she received an orange from her father, the first orange she had ever tasted as refrigerated rail cars were then able to transport citrus across America. She went on to say that she thought that orange was the sweetest, tastiest thing she'd ever eaten and that life on the prairies had improved immeasurably.

Here in America we are so fortunate to have an abundance of inexpensive food, some grown right here in the bread basket states and some, including citrus and produce, grown in the southeast and southwest portions of our country. Much of it is now harvested mechanically, but migrant workers are still needed for the productions of much of it. There was a time when much of America went hungry, the decade long great depression and dust bowl years that began with the financial crash of 1929. Many young men left home so as to not be a burden for their families. Most rode the rails, climbing on and off box cars as they traversed the nation. President Roosevelt realized their plight and the risk posed to railroad towns as the beggars walked through neighborhoods begging for work and food. He established transient camps to alleviate the problem and one of those camps was built in Plattsmouth. There were 21 buildings that housed on average 150 boys. A dairy barn was among the buildings which provided labor opportunities and milk for the boys.

My father was 12 years old in 1929 and that year his father lined him up with a job which was to be the "water boy" for a threshing crew that traveled throughout Nemaha county, Nebraska. He agreed to work 10 hour days at 50 cents per day. Those days were grueling, I'm sure, but he stuck to it. His job was to haul water to the thirsty workmen and the thirsty steam driven threshing machine. The threshing machine was similar to the one the museum displays next to the Cook log cabin in Plattsmouth. He recalled that he was fascinated by the huge and ominous machine, tall, black with steam hissing constantly. On the side of the engine was a monstrous iron flywheel that spun very fast with a spinning governor made of cast iron balls that worked a lever as they spun. When my father finally received his pay of \$5.50 for 11 days work he thought he was rich. He did have \$.10 deducted though when he fell off his horse and broke a bottle of water. That represented 1/5 of his pay for the day. When he got home and showed his earnings to his father, his dreams of how he would spend his money were dashed as his father asked him for the money, telling him that the family needed it. Disappointed as my father was he didn't complain as he knew that his large family needed the money and knew that it hurt his father more to have to ask for it than it hurt Dad to lose it. In conclusion, I try to remind myself how fortunate we are to live in a country of abundance, knowing that many parts of this world don't have it so good. Enjoy what's left of winter in Cass County, stop into the museum when you can for a taste of summer-- fix yourself a lemonade!

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.

**Go Team! Sports in Cass County
January 9 - March 24, 2018**

Nebraskans are excited about the Huskers next football season, but here in Cass County we also cheer for the local teams, whether it is football, baseball, basketball or our beautician's bowling team! We have pulled from our photo files a selection of team photos. The earliest is 1887. Also, cheering on the teams, is Goldie, our mannequin, dressed in her Nehawka cheerleading uniform.

**Hair Wreaths, Hair Jewelry and Valentines
January 9 - March 24, 2018**

Hair wreaths were popular forms of fancy work by women in the Victorian Period. Friends exchanged hair as tokens of friendship and wove them into wreaths or jewelry. Hair was also used to honor and remember a deceased person. We have included in the exhibit Valentines from the same time period.

**Mini Exhibit: Winter in Cass County
January 25 - March 24, 2018**

Have you heard about the time that snow was "as high as a horse's back" on Main Street in Plattsmouth? Do you know when they had to plow a road three times in order for a funeral procession to get through? For answers, come see the exhibit in our front display case about past winters.

"Moving Pictures in Homes"

We thought you would enjoy the following article from the

Alvo Advance, April 3, 1913:

"A prediction may safely be made that in the very near future provision will be made for moving pictures in the home. When a man decides to build a house to cost, say, \$25,000 or more, the architect will plan the picture room in which family and their guests can enjoy a select program of latest productions. It may be in connection with a dancing room or it can be accommodated in much less space. A projecting machine suitable for the house will not be very costly and the films will doubtless be delivered each week by companies organized for that special purpose."

Brown Bag Programs

Brown bags will begin in February. All programs begin at 12:00 and are free and open to the public. Cookies and coffee are served.

**Tuesday, February 13
"Hair Wreaths and Valentines"**

Speaker: Margo Prentiss

In conjunction with the current exhibit, the Museum Curator will talk about the history of Hair Wreaths in the Victorian Period and Valentines from the 1880s to the 1930s.

**Tuesday, February 27
"Bess Streater Aldrich,
Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow"**

Speaker: Kurk Shrader

In this powerpoint presentation, Mr. Shrader will talk about the new garden venue, upcoming exhibits at the Aldrich house, and plans for the Aldrich Foundation.

**Tuesday, March 13
"Plattsmouth Library
Innovation Studio Project"**

Speaker: Karen Mier, Library Director

In November, a 3-D printer, CNC router, laser cutter, vinyl cutter, embroidery machine and other equipment were installed at the library as part of the Library Innovation Studio project. Ms. Mier will reveal the background of the \$530,732 IMLS grant awarded to the Nebraska Library Commission and how the project is benefiting the library and the Plattsmouth community.

**Tuesday, March 27
Speaker: to be announced**

**Living History Day
Saturday, April 28**

Mark your calendars for our annual Living History Day. Details will be in the Spring newsletter.

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

Received between November 22, 2017 and January 31, 2018. Donors live in Nebraska unless otherwise noted.

MEMBERSHIPS CORNERSTONE CLUB

Limestone

W-M Farms, Inc

Robert Meisinger, Pres.

Sandstone

Harvey Funeral Home

Brian Harvey

Duane Hobscheidt

Main Street Family Dental

Dr. Wm. Moseman, DDS

Pankonin's Inc Farm Equipment

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Promoter

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Bill & Sally Babbitt

Richard & Ruth Boettcher

Kola Curttright

Garry & Becky Martin

Dewayne & Mary Prince

John & Carol Schreiner

Roger Schuette

Christine Trost

Deb Woster

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Friend

Glen Comer

Dan & Patty Cunningham (gift)

Linda A. Duncan

Terry & Julie Duncan (gift)

Carol Gray

Fran Guthrie, OR (gift)

Carroll Hudson

Sheryl Lemke, NV(gift)

Ellyn Meisinger

Ruby Moss (gift)

Carl & Jayne Ofe

Orville Philpot, Jr., OR

DONATION

In honor of

John & Wanda Hudson

on their 50th Anniversary

Fred & Pat Meisinger

DONATIONS

Caboose Fund

Joy Haswell

Genealogy Donations

Ryan Horner

Chris Irely, AZ

Tonia Shaw

Vivian Stewart, KY

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of

LaVonne Beil

ABBA Services, LLC

Judith Attebery

Anne & Clarence Baden

Jean C. Davie

Douglas Duey

Fred & Pat Meisinger

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Family and Friends

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of

Alyce Green

Rebecca Abdouch

Bill & Sally Babbitt

Robert Bears, MO

Ann Begley

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Robert & Cathy Day

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Nancy & John Woelfl

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.)

Saturday Volunteers Needed

We are in need of volunteers to work with Linda on Saturdays from 12:00 to 4:00. We have a volunteer for the first Saturday of each month, but we need volunteers on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Saturdays. Duties include greeting visitors, answering the phone, selling items in the gift shop, and helping Linda with registration or office projects. Please call the museum if you are available. After April 1, when we return to summer hours, we will also need volunteers on Sundays from 12:00 to 4:00. :)

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 _____

