

Cass County Historical Society Museum
646 Main Street
Plattsmouth, Nebraska 68048-1852

Winter Newsletter
February, March, 2014

e-mail: ccohs@windstream.net

phone: 402-296-4770

2014 Board of Directors

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SOCIETY FOUNDATION**

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Margo Prentiss, Curator

Linda Duncan, Registrar

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

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.

Logo 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

Living History Day and

May Basket Workshop

April 26, 2014

12:00 – 5:00 pm

Mark your calendars for Living History Day on Saturday, April 26. Details in the April newsletter!

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

Thank you for your support!

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.)

2014 MEMBERSHIPS Patron

Beverly Brown Gottsch,new
Century

Dean & Marilynn Meisinger
Dr. Charles & Bev Stoehr

Promoter

Diane Berlett
Kathleen Best

Jim & Gerry Byrk

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Paul & Patty Lambert

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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 Curttright

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 Shanholtz

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 & LeeAnn Stander

Bill & Connie Starkjohn

Dan & Marlys Wehrbein

Roger & Jeanene Wehrbein

Ted & Carol Wehrbein

MEMORIALS Karen Waters

Diane Berlett

Ramon & Lavonne Fusaro

Larry& Elizabeth Meisigeier

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

Joann 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.

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 Historial 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 ccohsm@windstream.net and in the subject line put "electronic newsletter".

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 _____