

## SPRING NEWSLETTER APRIL, MAY, JUNE, 2020

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402-296-4770

website: [www.casscountynemuseum.org/](http://www.casscountynemuseum.org/)

### 2020 Board of Directors

#### OFFICERS:

##### INTERIM PRESIDENT

Roger Wehrbein, Plattsmouth

##### VICE- PRESIDENT

Del Hervey, Plattsmouth

##### SECRETARY

Pat Meisinger, Plattsmouth

##### TREASURER

Alicia Garbers, Plattsmouth

#### BOARD MEMBERS

Sandra Allgeier, Plattsmouth

Susanne Astley, Plattsmouth

Judy Attebery, Murray

Diane Berlett, Plattsmouth

George Eledge, Plattsmouth

Don Gappa, Plattsmouth

Brad Ksiazek, Plattsmouth

Mel Luetchens, Murdock

Julie Schmale, Murdock

*The Board usually meets the fourth  
Tuesday of the month.*

#### CASS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION

Dave Pankonin, Interim President

Pat Meisinger, Secretary

Leigh Jean Koinzan, Treasurer

Mel Luetchens, Board Member

Roger Wehrbein, Board Member

Bruce Wiles, Board Member

#### MUSEUM STAFF

Margo Prentiss, Curator

Linda Duncan, Registrar

**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.*

### From the President's Desk .....

Hello, Having just been elected as Interim President of Cass County Historical Society, I thought I should write a note of introduction. I am a native of Cass County and a former County Commissioner and State Senator. My family on the Wehrbein side came from Germany via Wisconsin in the 1850s and settled originally near Rock Bluff Nebraska in 1868. In 1873, my great grandfather (Johann Fredrich) purchased a farm west of Plattsmouth. Wehrbeins have owned and farmed the land ever since; my son David lives there now.

My Mother's grandparents (Schell) settled around Alexandria, Nebraska in the 1860s and moved to York (via a Colby, Kansas homestead). My great grandfather was chaplain and then president of York College but had a penchant for land, so purchased a small ranch in Custer County. My grandfather Johns was a teacher then moved there to run the ranch and also became superintendent of Merna schools. My Mother thus grew up on the ranch in a sodhouse and became a school teacher. My father Ralph and mother Vivian met while she was teaching in Plattsmouth and he was farming. They married in 1936.

So that is my background. My family (sons Doug and David and grandchildren Abby and Kalby) are still farming and connected to agriculture. I am semi-retired, although active in several organizations.

With the present virus situation, not much is happening at the museum. Eventually, I want to explore possible future ideas and plans.

Stay healthy,  
Roger Wehrbein

### Coronavirus Update: 2020

The museum is staying open its regular hours and the staff is working. We've been sorting, accessioning, and filing recently donated items. We're also helping individuals with genealogy and other research requests.

We have postponed our April Brown Bag Programs since our programs usually attract an audience of over 10 people. Please see the revised program schedule on page 2.

We are living in uncertain times, please visit our website for any changes that might take place after our newsletter goes to press.

## **TEMPORARY EXHIBITS**

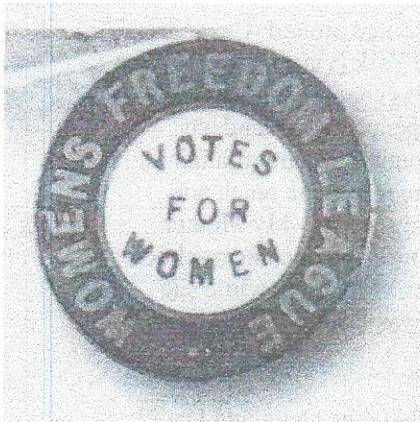
Exhibits are rotated in our Davis Conference Room and highlight different aspects of our Permanent Collection and County History.

### **"Rightfully Hers"**

#### **A pop up exhibit from the National Archives Through August 30.**

This display commemorates the 100th Anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment. It spotlights history of the amendment, women's voting rights before and after the 19th amendment and its impact today.

Due to the limited attendance in March and April, we have extended the exhibit until August 30.



### **Women's Suffrage Movement in Cass County 1866-1920**

In conjunction with "Rightfully Hers" we have installed a small exhibit about the women's suffrage movement in Cass County.

Did you know that Susan B. Anthony spoke in Plattsmouth in 1871?

Did you know that a woman from Plattsmouth served on the first Woman's Equal Suffrage League in Lincoln?

**100 years ago in Cass County:** The Weeping Water Republican of April 1, 1920 reported that "Farmers are busy this week with the spring farm work". According to the article, the prevailing wage for extra help was \$60 to \$65 per month until harvest time. Advertisements in the paper were urging Nebraskans to go to the polls on April 20 and vote for John J. Pershing for President.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

### **Revised Brown Bag Program Schedule**

Due to the rules regarding a 10 person limit on gatherings through April 30, we have postponed our April brown bags. The revised schedule is below.

The programs start at 12:00 and are over by 1:00. Cookies and Coffee will be served.

**Tuesday, May 12**

#### **"The Phoenix Log Cabin"**

**Speaker: Butch Bouvier**

Mr. Bouvier will talk about the log cabin he is currently restoring in Cass County.

**Tuesday, May 19**

#### **"Steampunk Festival"**

**Speaker: Shannon Lewis**

Shannon will share details about the "Steamship Landing Exposition" planned sometime in the future in Plattsmouth.

**Tuesday, June 9**

#### **"Notable Women In Cass County"**

**Speakers: Sandra Allgeier,**

**Leigh Jean Koinzan**

**and Pat Meisinger**

Our speakers have been researching women important to our county history, such as Alice Perry, the Dovey Sisters, Etha Brooks, and many more!

### **STEAMPUNK FESTIVAL scheduled for June 13-14 has been postponed.**

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **UPDATE**

At their February meeting, the Board of Directors appointed Roger Wehrbein as Interim President to fill the remainder of Doug Duey's term.

Judy Attebery and Julie Schmale were elected to fill the terms of Roger Wehrbein because of his move to President and Roger Schuette who resigned in December. Both terms expire in 2021.

The Board also appointed Mel Luetchens and Roger Wehrbein to the CCHS Foundation Board.

The Foundation Board appointed David Pankonin as Interim President to fill the remainder of Doug Duey's term. Dave has been a Foundation board member since 2012.

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### **FLU UPDATE: 1918**

A headline in the October 14, 1918, Plattsmouth Journal said "This City very clear of Spanish Flu, and will endeavor to keep so." The article stated that "moving picture shows have been closed" and "religious meetings deferred until such a time as there shall be less danger of contagion." The October 24<sup>th</sup> paper announced that public schools had been closed. The article told young people to "look upon it as a provision whereby you can aid, by keeping the disease away from yourselves and thereby assist in getting the city clean from the epidemic and in this way assist the government. This is the patriotic spirit..."

## Memberships, Donations and Memorials

Received between January 11 and March 31, 2020. Donors live in Nebraska unless otherwise noted.

### MEMBERSHIPS for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 CORNERSTONE CLUB

Granite  
Citizens State Bank  
Julie Schmale

Sandstone  
Edward Jones Investments  
Brad Ksiazek

Linder Tire and Auto, Inc.  
Kirk and Glenda Linder

### MEMBERSHIPS

Century  
In Memory of  
Seven Hennings Brothers  
Virginia & Debby Hennings, CA

Century  
Frank & Nora Eyster  
Larry & Peggy Lawton, new

Promoter  
Richard & Stella Ruth Boettcher  
Dave & Vicki Chebatoris  
Jim Elworth, IN  
Jan Matisco, CA  
Norm & Meredith Schoch  
Charles & Irene Warga  
Paul Waters  
Steve & Marlene Wehrbein  
Ted & Carol Wehrbein

Booster  
Kola A. Curttright  
Margaret Knorr  
John & Jill Lokke  
James & Deloris Pollard, CA  
John & Carol Schreiner

Friend  
Sara Thingan Begley, IA  
Diana Capaldi, PA  
Eldonna Forrest  
Maxine Hild  
Portia Iverson  
Ellyn Meisinger  
Linda Rice  
Patsy Sawyer

Donation  
Hy Vee Giving Tag Program

Donation  
Daisy Richards

Donation for Paper Supplies  
Patsy Sawyers

Donation in Honor of  
Dave & Lori Pankonin  
Randy L. Fleming

Donations for Genealogy  
Research

Anne Green, Wash. D.C.  
Casey Denton, OK  
Laurie Kaden, CA

Donation to  
Rock Bluffs School Fund  
in memory of Betty Meisinger  
Ellyn Meisinger

In- Kind Donation:  
Designing and Installing Sign  
on Lewis and Clark Pirogue Replica  
Quality Signs  
Mark Cundall

Memorial Fund  
Bequest  
Estate of Kathleen Best

Membership Renewal Time??  
Is the date highlighted on your address label? If so, it means your membership is due! Please fill out the form on the back and mail with your check to the museum. Our Fiscal year ends June 30; your renewal before that date will help us end the year on a positive note.

(Those who receive the newsletter via e-mail will receive a notice when your membership is due.)

### MEMORIAL FUND

in memory of  
Anne Begley  
Eldonna Forrest

Richard Berner  
Herb & Nancy Heil, CA

Douglas V. Duey  
William & Susanne Astley  
Ayars & Ayars, Inc.  
William & Sally Babbitt  
Jim & Stephanie Ball  
Jeanie Brookhouser  
Dennis & Mary Brown  
Michael & Shelia Coen  
Cathy Day  
Phyllis Durand  
Betty Fischer  
Robert & Darlene Flack  
Eldonna Forrest  
Maureen Freeman-Caddy  
Carol Gray  
David Halvorsen  
Brian & Christina Harvey  
Butch & Dobey Haws  
Herb & Nancy Heil, CA  
James & Cheryl Heng  
Henry-Hobscheidt Motors  
Gladys Jones  
Ann Knorr Snider  
Margaret Knorr  
Bill Knorr, Jr., MI  
Leigh Jean Koinzan  
Donna Leon  
Kirk & Glenda Linder  
Melvin Luetchens  
David & Sharon Lybarger  
Jan Matisco, CA  
Richard & JoAnn Murtha  
Bruce Nissen  
Steve & Marlene Rishel  
William & Marilyn Rishel  
Linda Carlson-Schmidt  
Norm & Meredith Schoch  
Roger Wehrbein  
Ted & Carol Wehrbein  
Alan & Barbara Williams  
Steve & Jan Woolley, MO

Merle Meisinger  
American Legion Auxiliary Post 56

Donald Parriott  
David & Sharon Lybarger

**Summer hours:** On April 1, we return to Summer Hours and will be open Tuesday thru Sunday, 12:00 to 4:00  
(except for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, April 5 and 12, when we will be closed)



**60 Years Ago !**

Dedication of Cornerstone, Cass County Historical Society Museum, May 27, 1960.

Dr. John Gilmore, son of Dr. George Gilmore (Founder of Cass County Historical Society) and Alice Pollock Perry, first Curator of Museum and daughter of T. H. Pollock (donor of land for building).

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.

**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**

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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.

**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:**

**Individuals and Families:**

- Patron (\$1,000 and up)
- Benefactor (\$500 and up)
- Investor
- 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 \_\_\_\_\_