



SPRING NEWSLETTER

April, May, June 2021

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402-296-4770

www.casscountynemuseum.org

2021 Board of Directors

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

CASS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION

Dave Pankonin, President

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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.*

Guest Column by *Susan Rice*

Can you hear the school bells pealing in the morning? I'm sure the sound carried many miles in the mornings of long ago.

Country schools were the center point in most rural settings before 1900 and even later. It was no different in Cass County. You could find a school about every two or three miles apart. Not only were the buildings used for Readin', Writin' and Rithmetic, they were used for Sunday School/Church meetings, adult education at night and summer picnics.

How, you may ask, did the Cass County Museum become involved in putting signs where country schools were located? A very dedicated, retired country school teacher, Betty Stukenholtz in Otoe County, began to honor the schools there. She even organized a national group for country schools. Our museum heard about her quest of locating each school and placing a sign. Following the death of H. Neil Lancaster, a former Cass County Superintendent and Treasurer on the Museum board, the Cass County Museum Board decided this was a way to honor Neil and direct the monetary gift from a bequest from Mr. Lancaster.

Many people are working on identifying the current landowners after locating where the schools were. We have used a 1905 Plat map, a 1933 map drawn by Fulton Harris, visits to the courthouse and conversations with neighbors of former schools. After current owners are identified, written permission is obtained before a sign can be placed.

There were over 100 country schools in Cass County. Over the years, several consolidated and used new numbers. Several have had more than one number. When working on Hwy 34 east of Avoca to put up District 94, we discovered that the years didn't match. Calling Margo, we discovered the district had indeed consolidated and had a new number. The building actually had three numbers. It was located on the County Fair grounds before finding a new home again east of Avoca on the farm *Bloom Where you are Planted* to entertain children and their families.

We have traveled to all four corners of Cass County to erect the signs. We often drive by to see how they are doing and have replaced at least two with stronger posts. Several members of the Museum who have been raised in the area have also put up signs.

Favorite buildings? I love the brick schools: Little Brick/Wetenkamp #45 is tiny! Philpot/Pleasant Grove #80 is a nice home today. Taylor #37 is a home. Cedar Creek #31 has wonderful double-front doors with a half moon window above them.

Favorite names? Lick Skillet #93, Sandburr #90, Shady Corner #75, Rabbit Roost/Bengen/Amick #55. and Hard Rock/Scrabble/Sunny Side #40

TEMPORARY EXHIBITS

There is always something new to see in the museum! Exhibits are changed quarterly in our Davis Conference room.

Spring Awakening

March 30 – May 29, 2021

After the cold, snowy winter, we are ready for Spring! This exhibit includes gardening and planting tools, prints, postcards, and photographs of Spring.

“From Sea to Shining Sea”

Prints by John Falter

March 30 – June 26, 2021

In the early 1970s, the 3-M Corporation commissioned John Falter to do a Bicentennial Series of paintings entitled “From Sea to Shining Sea”. The original oil paintings are owned by 3-M. The Corporation had reproductions made of the paintings and one set of the prints was donated to Cass County Historical Society by John Falter.

Summer!

Time to head to the Beach!

June 1 – August 28, 2021

Merritt Beach was a popular recreation area just south of the Platte River on the east side of Highway 75.

This exhibit of photographs and memorabilia will help you relive the fun times at the beach between 1930 and 1989.

Volunteer opportunities:

Saturday receptionist: 12-4:00
Greet visitors, answer phone, work on special projects. We need volunteers on the 2nd, 3rd & 4th Saturdays.

Help to host museum table at the Time Line Event, July 24 or 25
We will display some educational items relating to Lewis and Clark and also have membership information available.

**** SPECIAL EVENT ****

Mark your Calendar:

Living History Day, Time Line Event,

A Walk Through Time

July 24-25, 2021

9:00 a.m. -- 5:00 p.m. Saturday, July 24

9:00 a.m.--4:00 p.m. Sunday, July 25

**The event will be held at the
Rock Hill Windmill Event Center,
5910 Ranch Road, Plattsmouth.**
(From Plattsmouth, take Hwy.66 West to 60th Street,
turn North and go 2 miles to Ranch Road)

The event will be outside. You will be able to walk through history, hearing re-enactors from the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804, US Army, Fort Atkinson 1820s, Mountain Men from the 1830s, Travelers on the Oregon Trail in the 1840s and Civil War Soldiers from the 1860s.

On July 24, at 1:00 p.m. Bill Hayes will appear as “George Shannon: Youngest Member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Major funding for his program is provided by Humanities Nebraska (HN).



If you would like to make a donation to help cover other costs for “A Walk through Time” please mail a check to Cass County Historical Society, 646 Main Street, Plattsmouth, NE.
Note on the check that it is for the “Time Line Event.”
There is also a PayPal option on our website. Go to the “Make a Donation” page on our website www.casscountynemuseum.org click on the PayPal button and choose “Event Donation”

To learn more about the Time Line Event, visit our website, click on the Special Events page and there is a newsletter each month by Butch Bouvier with updates.

(We are in the process of booking other programs through Humanities Nebraska for Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon, but the details could not be finalized by press time. Watch our website for updates. You will also be receiving a special June newsletter.)

**Memberships, Donations, and Memorials
Received between January 13 and March 31, 2021.
Donors live in Nebraska unless otherwise noted.**

MEMBERSHIPS

Received between

January 13 and March 31, 2021

CORNERSTONE CLUB

Businesses

Granite

Citizens State Bank
Julie Schmale

Sandstone

Edward Jones
Brad Ksiazek

Great Plains Realty Auction Co.
Randy Fleming

INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES

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Larry & Peggy Lawton

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Glenn & Sharon Eager
Kirk & Glenda Linder
Lori Thompson Sloup
Renee A. Hart-Thakur
Roger Wehrbein

Promotor

Kola Curttright
Jim Elworth IN
Bill Knorr, Jr., MI
Dr. Bill & Marilyn Rishel
Norman & Meredith Schoch
Mike Schuldt

Booster

Louis & Lola Austin
Sara Begley
Rae Cacioppo
Nola Marcy, TX
Carl & Jayne Ofe
Jon & Dee Schuetz
Paul Waters
Irene Warga

MEMBERSHIPS, continued

Friend

Diana Wiles Capaldi, PA
Maxine H. Hild
B.J. Holinka, AZ
Ellyn Meisinger
Patsy Sawyer
Sharon A. Shelley

DONATION

In Honor of

Dave & Lori Pankonin

Randy Fleming

GENEALOGY DONATIONS

Debbie Brozanic
Susanne Clark, TX
Howard & Anne Green, MD
B.J. Holinka, AZ
Robert & Becky McKim, MN
Marilyn Maines, AZ
Margaret Nolan, VA
Scott Willson, GA

DONATION FOR PAPER

SUPPLIES

Patsy Sawyer

**DONATION IN
APPRECIATION
OF ORAL HISTORY
PROJECT**

Laura Skalak Collins

**DONATION TO
ROCK BLUFFS SCHOOL
FUND**

Diana Wiles Capaldi, PA
Jon & Dee Schuetz

*Thank you for your support of
Cass County Historical Society.*

**DONATIONS FOR
TIMELINE EVENT**

AfterMath Enterprises, LLC
Larry Campbell, MO
Susanne Astley
Judy Attebery
Bill Babbitt
Wendy Bouvier, IN
Kola Curttright
Shirley Enos
Pat Meisinger
Paul & Susan Rice
Roger Wehrbein
Emily Whitehouse, IA

MEMORIAL FUND

in memory of

Joanne Glaze

Glenn White, FL

Ed Pohlmeier

Glenn White, FL

Don Steube

Plattsmouth Optimist Club
Roger Wehrbein

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.

There is also an option to use PayPal to pay your membership or make other donations. To use PayPal, visit our website www.casscountynemuseum.org and go to the page "Make a Donation"

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:

Open All Year

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

To renew your membership or to become a member for the first time, please fill out the form at right and mail with your check to the museum. There is also a PayPal option on our website.

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 _____