



## SPRING NEWSLETTER

APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2025

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402-296-4770

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

### 2025 Board of Directors

#### OFFICERS:

#### PRESIDENT

Roger Wehrbein, Plattsmouth

#### VICE- PRESIDENT

Roger Behrns, Louisville

#### SECRETARY

Pat Meisinger, Plattsmouth

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#### BOARD MEMBERS

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Judy Attebery, Murray

George Eledge, Plattsmouth

Jim Elworth, Nebraska City

Lanny Glup, Plattsmouth

Lisa Metzger-Grotrian, Plattsmouth

Del Hervey, Plattsmouth

Julie Schmale, Murdock

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

### CASS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION

Dave Pankonin, President

Pat Meisinger, Secretary

Leigh Jean Koinzan, Treasurer

Mel Lutchens, 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...*

*The museum has many programs as most of you know. For this newsletter, I asked Sandra Allgeier to tell about our Oral History Program.*

*Roger Wehrbein, President*

Everyone has a story...some are exciting, some are unusual, some are simple life experiences of a different time. When a person has passed away, we may think: I wish I had asked about her childhood, or I don't think I know about his work, or, he didn't talk about his service in WWII, I wish I knew more about that.

The mission of our museum is to collect, preserve, and present the history of Cass County. To that end, we are accumulating oral histories of Cass County people. Since 2014 volunteers have been interviewing on camera people talking about their childhood, their work, their family, their experiences. The interviews are then stored on a computer, and three copies are made...one DVD or flash drive is given to the storyteller, one archival DVD is put in a safe-deposit box at the bank, and one is placed in our files after it has been downloaded onto a touchscreen computer. The touchscreen is for the use of the public. All the interviews show up with a picture of the speaker. One has only to pull up a chair and touch the picture to watch and listen to the story.

We have some interesting stories...Martha McQuin talked about operating a restaurant in the hotel in Union during the Great Depression. Railroad engineers stopped the train and walked to the hotel for dinner. The blue-plate special was twenty-five cents including a piece of pie which Martha had baked. Blanche Highfield talked about coming to Plattsmouth to teach in grade school. She lived with the family of a student and walked to school each day. She talked to people along the way and got acquainted with people who became life friends. Jerry and Myrna Higgins gave a tour of the hardware store. They talked about the history of the store and how they made sure their customers always got what they needed...even in the middle of the night. Those are examples of people who have since then passed away. How happy we are that we have their stories to share.

Maybe you know someone who has an interesting story to tell, or you know an older person whose story you want to hear before it's too late. Call the museum to arrange for an interview. The sessions usually last about one-half hour. We often do the interviews at the museum, but we have also gone to homes and out of town. It sometimes works well for a relative to join the conversation so they can ask questions about their family's history.

See you at the museum.

*- Sandra Allgeier, Chairperson  
Oral History Committee*

**Memberships, Donations, and Memorials**  
**Received between January 16 and March 25, 2025**

**Donors live in Nebraska unless otherwise noted.**

**Exhibits & Events**

**“Recent Acquisitions”  
continuing through May 31**

In the Davis Conference Room are just a few of the items that have been donated in the past two years.

**“Paintings, Prints and Drawings”  
April 1 through June 28**

The history of Cass County as told through artwork from our collection.

**“Easter, Mother’s Day and Patriot Postcards”  
April 1 through June 28**

In the front display case are holiday postcards from the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

**LIVING HISTORY DAY**

**Saturday, April 26, 12:00 to 4 pm**

The day will include a May Basket Workshop for children, rag doll making, board games, a quilter, a spinner, Lewis & Clark re-enactors and more! (See insert )  
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**Brown Bag Programs**

**Tuesday, April 8, 12:00**

**“Omaha Bridges out of Poverty”**

Speaker: Greg Smith

Omaha Bridges is making a difference by bringing the community together to end poverty.

**Tuesday, April 22, 12:00**

**“Burlington Shops”**

Speaker: Dave Nielsen

This program will cover the history of the Burlington Railroad Shops in Plattsmouth.

**Tuesday, May 13, 12:00**

**“The Nebraska Homestead Act of 1862 and the Martin Family Ordeal of 1864”**

Speaker: Dave Nielsen

The Homestead Act opened land to the Nebraska Territory in 1862 and provided 160 acres of federal land free to anyone who agreed to farm the land and make it their home.

**CORNERSTONE CLUB**

**GRANITE**

Citizens State Bank  
Julie Schmale

**LIMESTONE**

Tschirren Farms LLC  
John & Karen Tschirren

**SANDSTONE**

First State Bank Nebraska  
Kiley Alberts

Great Plains Realty-Auction Co.  
Randy Fleming

MARVRO Farms, LLC (new)  
Edward & Susan Dellinger

Stock Seed Farms, Inc.  
David Stock

Witte Physical Therapy  
Dan Witte

**MEMBERSHIPS**

**INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES**

**Investor**

Larry & Peggy Lawton

**Century**

Kevin Bertrand, CA  
Thomas W. Carneal, MO  
Tom & Kathy Copmann, FL  
Edward & Susan Dellinger  
Donald Gappa

Leigh Jean Koizan &  
John Sullivan

Kevin & Linda Monahan  
Dr. Charles & Bev Stoehr  
Tom Sullivan

**Promoter**

Mike & Shelia Coen  
Rodney C. Keil  
Jon & Dee Schuetz  
Elizabeth Snodgrass  
Daniel & Marlys Wehrbein  
Loris Wiles

**Booster**

Diana Capaldi, PA  
John & Jill Lokke  
Garry & Rebecca Martin  
Bruce & Mary Nolte, MN  
Scott & Lynette Roberts  
Bill Todd  
Irene Warga

**MEMBERSHIPS, continued**

**Friend**

Sherrill Konfrst  
Ellyn Meisinger  
Brian & Mandy Wagner, gift  
June Ann Wagner  
William & Lisa Wagner, gift  
Jacquelyn Zimmer

**Time to renew??**

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.

**MEMORIAL FUND**

**In memory of**

Alyce “Jean” Bryant  
American Legion Auxiliary #56

Larry Cunningham

Lanny Glup

Myrna Hale

American Legion Auxiliary #56  
Doris Landon

Elna Hodge

Doris Landon

Verl & Donna Steinshouer

Jon & Dee Schuetz

Bill & Mena Toman

Doris Landon

Walt Williams

Lanny Glup

Bernita Zimmer

Lanny Glup

Doris Landon

**DONATION TO COOK LOG CABIN FUND**

**In Memory of**

George & Eloise Jacobs  
Pam & Jake Jacobs, OR



## New Building Fund

Donations for the New Building Campaign should be made payable to Cass County Historical Society Foundation and mailed or delivered to the Museum at 646 Main Street, Plattsmouth.

Members of the Fund Raising Committee are: Craig Buescher, Sandra Allgeier, Roger Behrns, Pat Meisinger, Dave Pankonin, Roger Wehrbein and John Winkler.

### DONOR CATEGORIES FOR NEW BUILDING PROJECT

Memorial (\$1 million)	Wagon Master (\$100,000 and up)
Fur Trader (\$500,000 and up)	Pioneer(\$50,000 and up)
Explorer (\$250,000 and up)	Homesteader (\$25,000 and up)
Trailblazer (\$150,000 and up)	Cass Countian (\$15,000 and up)
New Building Friends (\$10 and up)	

### New Building Fund

**Donations received between January 18, 2025 and March 25, 2025**

#### New Building Friends

**Total of \$1,960**

#### **In memory of Paul McManis**

Gerry & Kathy Ballot, MN  
 Roger & Linda Behrns  
 Greg & Linda Bookey, MN  
 Vicki Buckman, AZ  
 Dr. Elizabeth Ann Cochran  
 Kathy Copple  
 Joyce & Jim Croteau, MN  
 Shari Deloski  
 Jean Deason, MN  
 Julie & Ed Diem  
 Cindy Fankhauser & Family  
 Linda Flynn  
 Jill Matches & Goldie  
 Larry & Maureen Gulizia  
 Jean Heim  
 Sybil Henderson  
 Roy & Shelly Hudson  
 Jerilyn & Dan Huesby, MN  
 Marilyn Kerans  
 Bonnie Klinefelter & Family, MN  
 Bill & Cheryl Knutson  
 Bob & Carol McManis, IA  
 Jill Matches & Goldie  
 Jim & Diane Mayfield  
 Fred & Pat Meisinger

#### **In memory of Paul McManis continued**

Verna & Steve Meisinger  
 Keith Mosley  
 Betty Navrkal & Robert  
 Dave & Lori Pankonin  
 Reha Family  
 Ron & Judi Renner  
 Paul & Susan Rice  
 Steve Sherman  
 Scott Shoemaker  
 Mike & Barb Slattery  
 John & Marilyn Steuck, MN  
 Linda & Tom Swanson  
 Shirley Usher, MN  
 Jim & Barnita Williams  
 John Wolf

#### Cass Countians

#### Additions to the Family Gift in honor of Bierl & Vinduska

#### families

**(\$3,000)**

Mike & Marilyn Cahalane

#### New Building Friends

**(\$1,000)**

**In memory of Bill & Margaret  
Knorr, Roy & Clara Knorr, Paul &  
Lorene Heineman**  
 Bill Knorr, Jr, MI

#### New Building Friends

**(\$1,000)**

Kenneth Aylor  
 Mel Luetchens  
**(\$200)**  
 Spencer & Vivian Davis  
 Diana Wiles Capaldi, PA  
**(\$120)**

John & Jill Lokke  
**(\$50)**

Garry & Rebecca Martin  
 Tim Vogt, NV  
**(\$20)**

John & Shirley Titsworth, IA

#### **In Memory of Bill and Mena Toman**

**(\$200)**

Tom Sullivan

#### **In Memory of Diane Berlett, Patrice "Teedee" Peterson, and**

**Dale Sharp**

**(\$75)**

Lanny Glup

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**

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To renew your membership or to become a member for the first time, please fill out the form below 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* \_\_\_\_\_