



SPECIAL NEWSLETTER

JUNE, 2026

646 Main Street, Plattsmouth, NE. 68048

ccohsm@windstream.net

402-296-4770

www.casscountynemuseum.org

2026 Board of Directors

OFFICERS:

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Jim Peterson, Eagle

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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

Roger Behrns, Board Member

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Roger Wehrbein, Board Member

MUSEUM STAFF

Margo Prentiss, Curator

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 Curator's Desk...

Sad News

Our long time Registrar, Linda Barnard Duncan, passed away on March 8. Linda was the “brains” of our museum. When someone would come in and ask me a difficult history question, I would point to Linda and say “you need to talk to her”. She would usually know the answer off the top of her head but, if not, she knew which file to pull out. If we didn't have anything, she would dive into it and check history books, family files, scrapbooks, newspapers, census records, etc., until she found the answer. She had worked at the museum since 1982. The Board, Volunteers and I feel like we have lost a family member.

Margo Prentiss, Curator

P.S. I apologize if there are a lot of typing or spelling errors in this newsletter; Linda was also my “proofreader”.

From the President's Desk...

Greetings,

I first off want to pay tribute to Linda Duncan. Her quiet presence and historical knowledge of history in the Cass County area will be greatly missed. She was a very loyal employee and faced some very disagreeable weather days to get to work. Thank you for your service, Linda.

On the renovation front, the building committee is meeting regularly and considering many options, while working with the money we have (\$2,329,285). Even though we have a base number to work with, we are continuing to accept donations. Please consider giving if you can.

Thank you everyone for your generous support, we appreciate your confidence.

Roger Wehrbein, President

Memberships, Donations, and Memorials
Received between March 4 and May 20, 2026

Donors live in Nebraska unless otherwise noted.

Exhibits & Events

Temporary Exhibits
in Davis Conference Room:

“America 250”

January 10- September 2026
In celebration of the U.S.
Semiquincentennial, we are
exhibiting items from our collection
that relate to the American
Revolution, the Declaration of
Independence and our Founding
Fathers.

**“Celebrating 90 Years”
History of Cass County Historical
Society**

March 31 – June 27, 2026
Our historical society was founded
on May 20, 1936. This exhibit
celebrates our 90th anniversary with
photos of our founders, news articles
and early objects donated to the
collection.

“Wildflowers of Cass County”

Photographs by
Linda Barnard Duncan
June 30 – August 29, 2026
Linda had a strong interest in
wildflowers and photography.
In 2006, she put together this exhibit
of photographs of native plants
mentioned in books by
Bess Streeter Aldrich.

**Front Display Case:
“Remembering Beautiful Merritt
Beach”**

May 8 – September 26, 2026
This is a selection of photographs
and memorabilia from the popular
recreation area that closed in 1989.

MEMBERSHIPS
CORNERSTONE CLUB

Granite

Citizens State Bank
Julie Schmale

R.J. Wehrbein Farms, Inc.
Roger Wehrbein

Sandstone

First State Bank Nebraska
Kiley Alberts

Witte Physical Therapy
Dan Witte

INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES

Investor

Lisa Metzger Grotrian

Century

Bill & Sandra Allgeier
Thomas Carneal, MO
Frederick Eriksen
Leigh Jean Koinzan
and John Sullivan
Lynn & Mary McHugh, new
David & Lori Pankonin
Diana Duey Strokan, CO
Lynn & Jeanice Vinduska
Jeff & Vicki Wiles, new
Ken & Meg Zarybnicky

Promoter

Eleanor J. Box, TX
Jim & Gerry Byrk
Joyce Heim
Maxine Hild
Steven & Marlene Rishel, KS
Jerry & Mary Reinholt

Booster

Louis & Lola Austin
Janice Carnes
Charles & Wanda Eady, new
Whitey & Leslie Glup
Bruce Hanke, CA, new
Nancy Olson
Irene Warga

MEMBERSHIPS, continued

Friend

Ken Beckman
Jerry & Margaret Ann Blackwell
Jerry & Carol Burgess
Niki Campin
Portia Iverson
Don Jacobson, IA
Sherrill Konfrst
Jacquelyn Zimmer

DONATIONS

Rob & Becky McKim, MN

MEMORIAL FUND

in memory of

David Albert
Sara Begley, IA

Nancy Combs
Sara Begley, IA

Linda Duncan

Lanny Glup & Lori Good Baker
Roger & Linda Behrns
George & Arlene Eledge
Cheryl Grimshaw
Betty Henry
H. Margo Prentiss
Paul & Susan Rice
Minnie Mae Sayers
Virginia Wickham, MO

Dick Gapen

Thomas Carneal, MO

Terry Glup

Niki Campin
Betty Henry

Helen Warner Ledgeway

Thomas Carneal, MO

Art Tesarek

Katherine J. Solomon

Steve Wehrbein

Niki Campin

EVENTS



Wander Nebraska May – September 30, 2026

Cass County Historical Society is part of the “WanderNebraska 2026” program which is sponsored by the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation. This year 254 museums, historical societies, libraries and state parks are part of the WanderNebraska network.

Other Cass County locations are the Bess Streeter Aldrich House in Elmwood, The Plattsmouth Public Library and the Plattsmouth Historic Main Street District.

A booklet listing all the sites is available at the museum.



Go to the Nebraska 250 Website to learn about events across the state celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States.

Steampunk Festival Plattsmouth May 30, 2026

During the Steampunk Festival, the museum, farm building and shed will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The cabin, caboose and pirogue at the end of Main will also be open.



Annual Summer Open House ROCK BLUFFS SCHOOL Sunday, July 19, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Come tour our one-room brick schoolhouse which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Christmas in July Saturday, July 25

During Historic Downtown Plattsmouth's “Christmas in July”, the museum, farm building and shed in the courtyard and the cabin and caboose will be open from 12:00 to 4:00.

Recent Acquisitions

New items are always being donated to the collection. Here is a list of a few donated this Spring:

Composite photo of the PHS class of 1948;
Cookbook on Corn, 2006, 75th Kass County King Korn Korn Carnival
Donated by Jennifer Jensen

Spinning Wheel, made by Karl Uhlhorn of Avoca
Donated by Julie & David Zahn

Toy model of Burlington Railroad Car, given to Sterling Cole when he retired;

Photograph of Carnival float 1946
Photograph of Carnival float, 1947
Honey Lou Cole is in both photos.
Donated by Vicki Snyder

Family files for Barker/Barnard/Hennings families; wood grainer; yardsticks
Donated from the estate of Linda Duncan by Dan and Patty Cunningham

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. Our fiscal year ends June 30.

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 below and mail with your check to the museum. There is also a PayPal option on our website. Membership entitles you to Free Admission to Cass County Museum as well as the Countil Bluffs, Iowa, Museums: The Squirrel Cage Jail, Bregant House and RailsWest Museum.

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 _____