



**Summer Newsletter
July, August, September, 2014**

646 Main Street, Plattsmouth, Nebraska 68048
 ccohs@windstream.net
 402-296-4770

**2014 Board of Directors
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*The Board usually meets the last Tuesday
of the month at 7:00 pm.*

**CASS COUNTY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY FOUNDATION**

- Douglas Duey**, Chairman
Pat Meisinger, Secretary
Leigh Jean Koinzan, Treasurer
Dave Pankonin, Board Member
Bruce Wiles, Board Member

MUSEUM STAFF

- Margo Prentiss**, Curator
Linda Duncan, Registrar

*The new logo at the top of this page was
designed by Carl Reichart*

From the President's Desk.....

Cass County, Nebraska, has been blessed with bountiful rainfall this year. The crops and other vegetation are lush and green. Rivers rose to near flood stage two weeks ago but are slowly retreating to a more normal level. I drove east down Plattsmouth's Main Street last week, crossed the BSNF railroad tracks and headed towards the Missouri River, with water up on the road on both sides. As I returned heading west, I realized that the river which was out of its banks was now pressing up against the railroad levy and recognized that this was what the river must have looked like before it was channelized by the Corps of Engineers nearly 100 years ago. The river was very wide and crossing it was a formidable challenge. Conestoga wagons, sometimes called Prairie Schooners, piled onto Ferry Boats which were pulled by cable across the river by mule power and later by steam engines.

The Fourth of July celebrations brought nightly displays of fireworks, although Mother Nature outdid the manmade displays one evening with a nearly two hour lightning display just north of the county. Farmers' markets are popping up across the county with garden produce including sweet corn and melons which are both commonly consumed on the 4th. I believe early pioneers in Cass County celebrated Independence Day also, but somewhat differently than we do today. Community picnics were held in each city and village and farmers would often attend with their families. Some farm families would gather to celebrate within their own general neighborhood and enjoy a day of listening to fiddlers and dancing to their music. Homemade ice cream, fruit pies and cake were surely the most important elements of the celebration, wouldn't you agree?

Enjoy summer and stop by the Museum when you can!

--Douglas V. Duey

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.

“Remembering Beautiful Merritt Beach”

Continuing through August 24

Last summer we exhibited a few photographs of Merritt Beach that were donated in 2013. This year we expanded the exhibit to include more of the photographs and memorabilia (such as a basket from the concession stand!). Merritt Beach was a popular recreation spot in Cass County from the 1930s to 1989.

“Story of the Platte as Told in Maps”

Continuing through August 24

For the 300th anniversary of the European discovery of the Mouth of the Platte, we are exhibiting a series of maps showing the development of the confluence area. Included is a copy of Bourgmont's 1714 map of the Platte, a copy of Father De Smet's 1839 Mouth of the Platte map and an 1856 Nebraska Territory map.

“Harvest and Festival Memories”

August 26 through October 26, 2014

In conjunction with the Plattsmouth Harvest Festival, we will exhibit photographs and memorabilia from past Korn Karnivals. Photos of farm life and harvesting will also be on display.

“Cass County Nebraska Archaeology”

August 26 through November 1, 2014

September is Nebraska Archaeology Month. Archaeology exhibits and programs will be taking place across the state. We are displaying a selection of archaeological items collected by Dr. George Gilmore, Col. H.C. McMaken, and Alvin McReynolds.

Brown Bag Program

The program will begin at 12:00 noon. It is free and open to the public. You are welcome to bring your sack lunch; coffee and cookies will be served.

Tuesday, September 23

“Archaeology & Steamboat Wrecks of the Missouri River”

Speaker: Sandra Barnum

Ms. Barnum is an archaeologist with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Her powerpoint presentation will deal with historic steamboat wrecks on the Missouri River.

Rock Bluffs School Open House

Sunday, July 20, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

See insert about this special event!

Annual Pie Sale and Used Book Sale

Friday and Saturday September 5 and 6

10:00 a.m. To 4:00 p.m.

during the

Plattsmouth Harvest Festival

If you have books you would like to donate for the sale, please bring them to the museum on Thursday, August 21 or Friday August 22. We cannot accept Readers Digest Condensed Books, School textbooks or magazines. (If you cannot bring books on those days, please call in advance to set up another time.) Mark your calendars for Sept. 5 & 6: Come see the exhibits, take home a pie made by the best cooks in Nebraska and buy some books! Proceeds benefit the operating fund.

Smithsonian Magazine Museum Day

Saturday, September 27, Free Admission

Cass County Museum will join thousands of other museums nationwide for the annual Smithsonian Magazine Museum Day. If you have friends or relatives who are not members of the museum, invite them to visit on September 27. Free admission all day.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

<http://www.casscountynemuseum.org/>

Memberships...Special Donations... Memorials

Received between May 28 and July 10, 2104. Donors live in Nebraska unless otherwise noted

2014 MEMBERSHIPS

Century

Spencer & Vivian Davis
Ramon & Lavonne Fusaro
Theodore M. Libershal, MD
Dave & Sharon Lybarger
Fred & Pat Meisinger
Elizabeth Miller, FL
Harlan & Bonnie Seyfer
Walter J. Smith, TX
Glenn White, FL

Promoter

Mac & Anita Carmichael
A. Dale & Loretta Draper
James E. Case
Jean Howland
Nebraska Title Company
Jean Sayles-Jacobson
Richard Soennichsen, CA
Roger & Jeanene Wehrbein

Booster

Carol Alley
Dan & Cheryl Grimshaw
Bernice H.T. Fahlberg
Marilyn G. Maines, AZ
Gene & Evelyn Meier
Del & Diana Puls
George H. Sayles
Virginia Spangler

Friend

Shirley Adamonis
Eveyn J. Allen, new
Larry & Elly Biederman
Jean Gammell
Vernon R. Grashorn
Richard Haecke, IL, gift
Herb & Nancy Heil, CA
Richard D. Mougey
Pam Osthus
Sheryl Oviatt
Betty Reichart

DONATIONS

Genealogy Donations

Dennis & Evelyn Tipton, MD
Roy & Deirdre Tipton, NC

Special Donation

Tom Warga

ROCK BLUFFS SCHOOL

in memory of

Joann Moore

Bill & Sally Babbitt
Jean Howland

COOK LOG CABIN Donation for New Roof

Paul & Susan Rice

Members:

*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.)

MEMORIALS

In memory of

Mary Bell

Anne Begley
Norm & Betty Henry
Doris N. Hirz
Fred & Pat Meisinger
Thomas L. Miles
Betty Reichart
Steve & Marlene Rishel
Steve & Tammy Russell
Charles & Irene Warga
Kenneth & Margaret
Zarybnicky

Carl Glup

Kola Ann Curttright
Diane Strokan
Charles & Irene Warga
Dan & Marlys Wehrbein
Ted & Carol Wehrbein

Gary Hild

Dorothy Meisinger
Paul & Susan Rice

Ruby Lancaster

Joyce Heim

Bob Litle

Kola Ann Curttright

Ralph Parkening

Richard & Katherine Ayers
and Family

Marilyn Kay Roueche

Eugene & Evelyn Meier

Richard Sack

Norm & Betty Henry
Betty Reichart
Dan & Marlys Wehrbein

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 \$3,400. We still need to raise \$1,300 before we can start on the project. If you would like to make a donation to help with this expense, please send a check to Cass County Historical Society and indicate that it is for the **Log Cabin Roof Fund**.

Thank you!

JULY

in Cass County History:

145 years ago, July 5, 1869, ground was broken in Plattsmouth for building of the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad through Nebraska.

100 years ago, July 4, 1914, the Bohemian residents of Plattsmouth had a picnic at Sokol Hall and park. That evening there were fireworks at many different homes.

80 years ago, July 5, 1934, The Municipal Band had a concert in Weeping Water with Dr. L.N. Kunkel as Director.

80 years ago, in Union, the Rihn and Greene Farm Store advertised men's overalls for \$1.29 and a large box of wash soap for 11 cents.

If you have e-mail and would prefer to receive the newsletter electronically, please send us an e-mail at cchoism@windstream.net and in the subject line put "electronic newsletter".



ROCK BLUFFS SCHOOL 2014 OPEN HOUSES

SUNDAY, JULY 20, 2014

2:00 to 4:00 pm

COME PLAY BALL!

Remember those school yard ball games?
Bring the children or grandchildren and a ball glove.
Have them dress in traditional clothes – the kind worn
to a rural school 100 years ago.
We'll serve hot dogs and lemonade and root, root, root
for the hometown kids!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2014

2:00 to 4:00 pm

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL HOT DOG ROAST

Have a hot dog, chips and drink, tour the school,
and enjoy the beautiful Fall scenery

Admission is free,
donations will be accepted to help with maintenance and repair of the building.

For additional information, contact
Cass County Historical Society
646 Main Street, Plattsmouth, NE.
402-296-4770

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 _____