



Winter Newsletter January, February, March, 2015

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

2015 Board of Directors

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Harlan Seyfer, Plattsmouth

Del Stites, Louisville

Eleanor York, Plattsmouth

*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

From the President's Desk.....

Our Holiday Season at the Museum was a busy one. We hosted 175 visitors on November 29th. I spent the evening at the Cook cabin and Burlington Caboose. Our 102 years old Caboose continues to be a source of interest to our visitors. I was intrigued at how mesmerized the visitors were as our Board Member Del Hervey, a former railroad employee, explained to the visitors what life was like on the railroad a century ago. He explained how important it was for the engineer to keep the train on a very exact schedule to avoid collisions and how important the pocket watch was to all railroad workers.

Del's comments on the pocket watch caused me to remember my father, a watchmaker and jeweler for 25 years before becoming a banker. Sometimes he would stay at his workshop late into the night, cleaning and repairing watches and clocks. I didn't understand then how important his job really was. Engineers depended on watchmakers to keep their pocket watches running perfectly. In 1886, standards were developed requiring that railroad watches be accurate within 30 seconds each week. They had to have a white dial and Arabic numerals. They could only be size 16 or 18 (the size of the watch movement) and had to be temperature compensated. Those watches had to stand up to the constant abuse from the jarring and swaying of those early trains. Engineers were required to have their watches inspected regularly and to submit a certificate to supervisors stating its reliability. That was my father's job: to clean, repair and inspect the watches. Staying on schedule was critically important. A wreck in 1894 which killed 9 persons was the result of an engineer's watch that was off by 4 minutes. A good reliable pocket watch was a matter of life or death for a railroader.

This time of year, when the trees are bare, the train's whistle is especially loud. Some may not appreciate hearing it but I do, especially at night. I loved the sound as a child also. It conjured up thoughts of far away places and new adventures. Next time in the museum, look at the display of pocket watches. Hopefully they will have new meaning for you. Enjoy winter in Cass County.

--Douglas V. Duey, President

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.

“World War I: Photographs and Memorabilia” Thru January 24, 2015

July 28, 2014, marked the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I. We are honoring those who served from Cass County with an exhibit of photographs, recruitment posters and other memorabilia.

“Paintings and Drawings” Thru January 24, 2015

This exhibit includes oils, watercolors and penmanship drawings that have not been on display for several years.

"Signature Quilts" January 27 - March 28, 2015

The recent donation of two signature quilts from the 1930s prompted us to install this exhibit. First, we wanted to show these two very nice additions to our collection, but we have also brought out from storage other signature quilts that have been in the collection for some time.

"Valentines and Pocket Watches" January 13 - March 28, 2015

In the front display case, we have installed an exhibit of 7 pocket watches and some recently donated Valentines.

"Remembering the Greatest Generation: World War II"

March 31 - June 28, 2015

August of 2015 will mark the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. We have had many items donated recently that belonged to Cass County veterans who served in World War II. One of the most interesting is a scrapbook compiled by Charles Tasler who was a prisoner of war.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!
<http://www.casscountynemuseum.org/>

Brown Bag Programs

The programs begin at 12:00 noon. They are free and open to the public. Coffee and cookies will be served.

Tuesday, February 24

"Signature Quilts"

Speaker: Margo Prentiss

The Museum Curator will talk about the quilts currently on exhibit and some other objects recently donated to the Museum.

Tuesday, March 10

"The Art of Bookbinding"

Speaker: Lucy Gierham

Lucy and Jim Gierham just opened the Perfect Touch Bindery in Plattsmouth. They use no automated machinery. Everything is hand-sewn and hand-bound, "the old school" way.

Tuesday, March 24

"Traditional Hawaiian Quilting"

Speaker: Sandra Allgeier

Sandra will talk about Hawaiian quilting and show a quilt she is currently making. She will also show a video from the Nebraska Quilt Museum

Cass County Historical Society will be hosting the annual conference of the Nebraska Museums Association on April 13 and 14. Staff members from museums across Nebraska will be attending.

100 years ago in Cass County, January, 1915:
Hiatt and Tutt in Murray was advertising Men's sweater coats for \$1.25, Women's for \$1.50, and 4-Buckle all rubber overshoes were \$2.65.

Fangers Dept. Store in Plattsmouth offered 20 pounds of sugar for \$1.00 but the ad said :
"No Sugar sold to Children"

Members:

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 to the museum.
If you have internet and would prefer to receive your newsletter via e-mail, please send us an e-mail and put "electronic newsletter" in the subject line.

Cornerstone Club.....Memberships.....Donations.....Memorials

Received between October 9, 2014 and January 14, 2015. Donors live in Nebraska unless otherwise noted.

CORNERSTONE CLUB

Marble

Bruce & Annette Wiles

Granite

Plattsmouth State Bank
Lori Schneider

Limestone

Johnson Law Office
Roger K. Johnson

N & B Henry Rentals
Norm & Betty Henry

Sandstone

Jeff Henry Chevrolet
Jeffrey N. Henry

Edward Jones
Brad Ksiazek

W-M Farms, Inc.
Robert Meisinger

Main Street Dental
Dr. William Moseman, DDS

Pankonin's Inc
David & Lori Pankonin

MEMBERSHIPS

Century

Elton E. DeLesDernier, VA
Del & Glenda Hervey
Roy & Sharon Smith

Promoter

Bill & Susanne Astley
Diane Berlett
Jim Case

David & Vicki Chebatoris
Paul & Patty Lambert
Kirk & Glenda Linder
Mel Luetchens, new

Paul & Janet McCartney
Nancy Olson

H. Margo Prentiss
Jerry & Mary Reinholdt, new
Norm & Meredith Schoch

Booster

Kola Ann Curtright
Ruth Lillie, NC,
in memory of
Harold Lillie
Dorothy Meisinger
Frank & Joyce Swanson
Deb Woster

Memberships, continued

Friend

Allen CO. Public Library, IN
Joan Barnard

Sara Thimgan Begley, IA
Eleanor J. Box, TX

Millard & Janice Carnes
Glen Comer

Linda Duncan

Terry & Julie Duncan
Eldonna Forrest

Duane & Susan Hennings

Doris N. Hirz

John & Marcia Kriskey
Bud & Linda Lewis, gift

Carl & Jayne Ofe

Mary Frances Reinke
Linda Ries, ID

Art & Jackie Schleicher
Sharon Shelley

Larry & Rita Vallery, gift
June Ann Wagner

Pat Wagner

DONATIONS

Genealogy Donations

David & Susan Atherton, SD

Delbert & Judy Beins
Kathleen Huston, TX

Betty M. Lau, WI

Liz Robb, IN

Evelyn Tipton, MD

Rock Bluffs School Fund

Don Baker

Tom & Della Sullivan
Charles & Irene Warga

Numerous cash donations
during October open house.

Special Donations

Ruth A. McMaster

Darrel Draper

The Questers Inheritors
Chapter #771

Evelyn E. Stewart

Donation in memory of Richard "Dick" Gochenour

Jerry & Carol Burgess

DONATIONS

Donors to Rock Bluffs

Hot Dog Roast

Sandra Allgeier

Del Hervey

Pat Meisinger

H. Margo Prentiss

Susan Rice

Del Stites

Della Sullivan

Apples for

Halloween Parade

Plattsmouth HyVee

Donations in Honor of

Paul & Susan Rice on

their 50th Wedding

Anniversary

Fred & Pat Meisinger

Virginia Spangler

Donations for advertising

Dave & Sharon Lybarger

Paul & Susan Rice

SPECIAL DONATION

Anonymous

MEMORIALS,

In memory of

John Blotzer

Bill & Sally Babbitt

Jean Howland

Paul & Susan Rice

Lillian Feder

Doris Landon

Shirley Frazier

Doris Landon

Harley Hackwith

Jean Howland

Dale Hansen

Connie Diggs

George & Beverly Ebersole

Tom & Bonnie Keefe

Tom & Della Sullivan

Joseph Hostetter

LaVonne Beil

Fred & Pat Meisinger

MEMORIALS,

In memory of

Jeanette Jackson

Paul & Susan Rice

Delmar Kesterson

Maxine Hild

Frances Krejci

Norm & Betty Henry

Dee Lewis

Bill & Sally Babbitt

Donna Meisinger

Doris Landon

Ruth Parkening

Norm & Betty Henry

Charles & Irene Warga

Clark & Jean Wiles

Milo Perry

Bill & Sally Babbitt

Ruth Porter

June Wagner

Naomi Rhoades

Norm & Betty Henry

Michael Rice

Bill & Sandra Allgeier

Bill & Sally Babbitt

David & Sharon Lybarger

H. Margo Prentiss

DeWayne & Mary Prince

Roger & Jeanene Wehrbein

Ona Thimgan

June Wagner

Minnie Etta Topliff

Kola Ann Curtright

Norm & Betty Henry

June Wagner

Roger & Jeanene Wehrbein

Doris Wondra

Evelyn Allen

Doris Landon

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 _____