

MARION HERITAGE CENTER

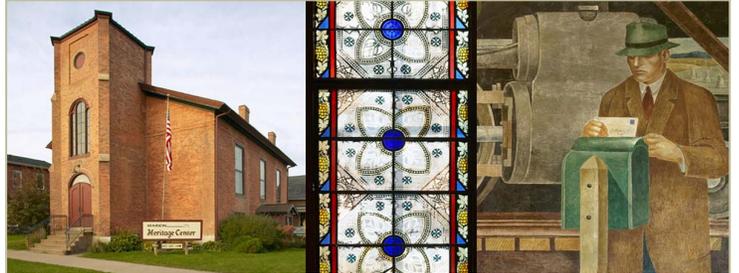
News from the Marion Historical Society

March 14, 2016

A message from your Society President,

On behalf of your Marion Historical Society's Board of Directors, we thank you for your patience and support this year. Because of your continued backing with individual, family, sustaining, lifetime and corporate memberships, and grants we will balance our

2015-16 budget. Thanks to our staff and many volunteers we continue to have outstanding exhibits and terrific programs that are well attended. Thank you.



As you probably know, for more than a year, the Heritage Center and the Granger House have operated as separate entities. I'm happy to tell you that the legal requirements of reorganizing our non-profit corporation, while complicated, have been completed for some time. Still, the actual transfer of properties, collections and assets has not followed suit. Unfortunately, the Marion Historical Society Board has concluded that the action described in the following soon-to-be-issued news release has become necessary:

"Citing 10 months of delays and obfuscation, the Marion Historical Society's Board of Directors has filed a civil lawsuit against Marion Historical Museums, Inc., operators of the Granger House in Marion.

Historical Society president Vic Klopfenstein said the regrettable action resulted from the failure of the Granger House Board to finalize the transfer of museum assets following a mutual decision to pursue divergent goals.

The separation, based on museum asset values as of February 28, 2015, was to be completed by April 15th, nearly one year ago."

Vic Klopfenstein, President, Marion Historical Society, Inc.

Contact Phone: 377-5502

Other News:

Veterans of the Korean and Vietnam wars:

We're looking for biographies to include in our Fall exhibition, opening on Veteran's Day, 2016. Its simple! If you can help, contact the Heritage Center.

Just announced: The Heritage Center has received a grant from the *Witwer Trust* to help prepare and present oral histories to include in our Fall exhibition, *Veterans of the Korean and Vietnam Wars*. If you would like to participate contact the Center.

Next time you visit, pause to admire the new paint job outside the building. Many thanks to *Linn County Historic Preservation* for the grant to fund the effort and Larry Nettet and his staff at *Weber Paint & Glass* for their outstanding work.

Coming: August 6-October 8, 2016 Embroiders' Guild of America, 20th National Exhibit: *Through the Needles' Eye*. Several children's classes planned. Co-sponsored by the *Cedar Valley Chapter of the Embroiders Guild of America*.

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, March 20, 2016, 1:30-3:00 p.m., Marion's Early Business Booster Clubs: the roots of the Marion Chamber of Commerce. It wasn't easy getting a business booster club started in Marion and we had our share of scoundrels and saints. Director, Lynette Brenzel, will tell the story.

Sunday, April 3, 2016, 1:30-3:00 p.m., Linda Bigley will present the history of the **Linn County Extension Service-101 years-old in 2016!** Learn how and why it grew to encompass agriculture, home economics, 4-H and much more.

Sunday, April 17, 2016, 1:30-3:00 p.m., John Klaus will discuss the history and importance of the **Masonry in Early Marion** and the relationship of the lodge with the city.

Saturday, May 14, 2016, 7:00-11:00 a.m., 4th Annual Pancake & Egg Breakfast & Silent Auction. Tickets now available. \$7 in advance, \$8 at the door. See a Board member, or drop by the Center for your tickets. Please let us know if you can help with an item(s) for the Silent Auction.

Saturday, May 21, 2016, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Opening Day, **15th Annual Art by Your Friends & Neighbors** exhibition. 60+ artists' works on display. Free admission. Sponsored by **Hills Bank & Trust Company.**

∞ Remember admission to the museum and all of our regular programs is free courtesy of a grant from **The McIntyre Foundation of Cedar Rapids.** ∞

Another "Take" on Membership by Jay Kacena, board member

Have you seen the television commercial about waste management with the punch line that says, "*What we leave behind is a sign of who we are?*"

Seems like that thought, while good, is wasted on waste! (no pun intended)

During the 175-year anniversary of the founding of Marion, the official Swamp Fox Festival program contained the following metaphor:

A Celebration of Heritage - What is it and Why Celebrate it?!

Our heritage is our inheritance. It's everything that's been handed down to us from the past--like gifts from our ancestors. For citizens of Marion today, that includes the very history of those who came before us; the freedom we enjoy because of Francis Marion, our namesake; the debt we owe to all the veterans buried in Oak Shade Cemetery; and even the Civil War statue and the depot in City Square Park. That legacy is not just what was left *to* us from yesterday, it's the legacy that must be left *for* those who follow us tomorrow.

What we leave behind *is* a sign of who we are (or were). It is the mission of your Historical Society to help us document, and save and pass on our legacy. We know you are already a believer . . . won't you encourage your friends and families to become members too and to contribute to our responsibility to the future? We owe it to the past; we owe it to the future.

Celebrate our heritage now, while *It's Yours!*