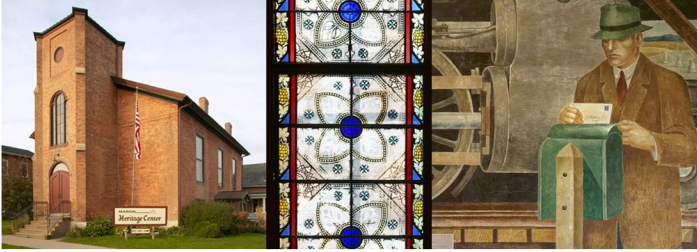




# MARION HERITAGE CENTER & MUSEUM

News from the Marion Historical Society

MARCH 2022



## *President's message*

Dear Society Friends:

Let me challenge your thinking:

At times I've wondered if history hasn't become a thing of the past. Then, last week, a quote from William Faulkner came across my desk which caused me to reconsider. "The past," according to Faulkner, "is not dead....in fact, it's not past!" So, what's THAT mean!?

I think it means that the past is present - today - just as it will be tomorrow. The past is our heritage - our birthright if you will - it's everything that's been handed down to us like gifts from our predecessors. For citizens of Marion today, that includes the very history of those who came before us. It's the freedom we enjoy because of those who claimed it in 1776 and those who fought to defend it in 1861 and 1914 and 1941 and ever since.

Signs are all around us that history is as important to us today as yesterday. Consider the name of our community after Francis Marion, the decision to restore the Civil War statue in City Square and the memorial recognition of over 725 veterans interred at Oak Shade Cemetery. As a citizen, you have a stake in preserving this legacy. Not just the legacy that was left TO us - that which we are to leave FOR those who will follow in the future.

*Jay Kacena*  
President

THE  
**McIntyre**  
FOUNDATION

*Encourages Your Membership in the  
Marion Heritage Center and Museum*

## TITANIC ANNIVERSARY

RMS Titanic was a British passenger liner that was, at the time of its construction, the largest ship ever built. Sailing from Southampton, UK, to New York City, US, on its maiden voyage, it was traveling at high speed through the North Atlantic when the first alerts were sounded about icebergs in the area.

Just before midnight on the 14 of April 1912, the Titanic struck an iceberg, causing irreparable damage to the ship's hull and destroying some of the compartments that were designed to keep the ship afloat.

Although considered 'unsinkable,' over the next two hours the ship slowly tilted over and at around 2 a.m. on April 15, RMS Titanic submerged beneath the waves leaving its passengers stranded in the freezing water. One thousand seventeen of the 2000 people aboard were lost.

On Sunday, April 10, 2022, Marion Historian David Wendell will present "A Day on the Titanic" to commemorate the 110th anniversary of that event. WATCH for an announcement of the occasion.



### Marion Historical Society Mission

The *Marion Historical Society* is a membership organization that serves to engage the public in the history, traditions, resources and on-going preservation of the Heritage Center museum for the enrichment of the community.

For more information about joining call 319-447-6376.

E-mail to: [marionheritage@marionhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:marionheritage@marionhistoricalsociety.org)

See our website: [www.marionheritagecenter.org](http://www.marionheritagecenter.org)

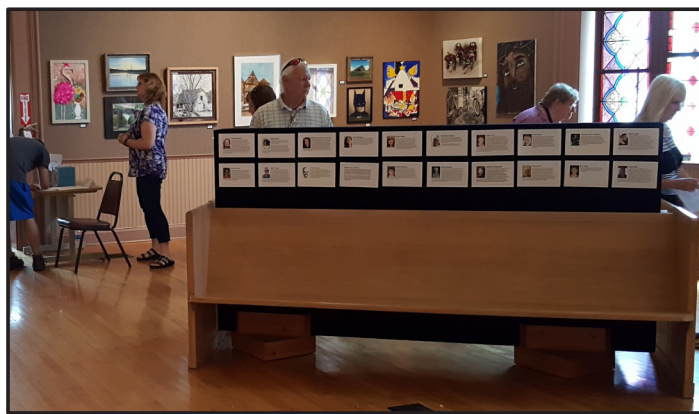
[www.facebook.com/MarionHeritageCenter/](https://www.facebook.com/MarionHeritageCenter/)

Mailing address:

P.O. Box 753, Marion, IA 52302-0753

# Art Show Edition 21 Begins May 21st

Since 2001, the Heritage Center Art Show has opened on the same day as the nationally rated Marion Arts Festival. That event draws 13,000 visitors or more to City Square Park to see and purchase the work of 50 artists and artisans from across the United States. Since only few of them are from Iowa, our exhibit gives art lovers a chance to see that we have a good many folks with talent and skill right here at home. After two years of “virtual” art shows we are happy to be “back on the wall in 2022!”



Invitations will soon go out to all our previous exhibitors (about 150 artists) in spite of the fact that we will only have space for the first sixty who respond. If you haven't been in our show before but would like to be added to the invitation list, please send your email address to [jaykacena7709@msn.com](mailto:jaykacena7709@msn.com).

We are grateful for the sponsorship of Hills Bank and Trust Company which makes possible this event each year including \$75 in prize money to each of the top three most popular exhibits. Be sure to vote for your favorite between May 21st and July 30th this year. Please thank the folks at Hills if you get a chance.

## LIBRARY VOLUNTEER NEEDED

A primary BENEFIT of membership in our Historical Society is access to the LIBRARY.

From early editions of the “History of Linn County” to Marvin Oxley’s DIARIES to virtually every issue of the Marion Sentinel ... the Heritage Center Library is a community treasure. Unique among its features is the collection of select documentation assembled by Pat Klopfenstein on dozens of subjects covering local Marion history.

We NEED someone – or perhaps a pair of someones – to CATALOG the contents of that wonderful RESOURCE. If you have anywhere from real qualifying EXPERIENCE to just a serious INTEREST



in libraries or books or history you might be the person we seek. If there's a chance of it, CALL ROBYN: 447-6376.

*Marion Historical Society  
meetings are held  
the Fourth Thursday  
of each month at 2:30 p.m.  
at the Heritage Center.*

*Sponsored in part by:*  
  
*Hotel Motel Grant Fund*



# Living History • 2022

*As if to prove that history is not just past, here are two stories of history's evolution into life today in Marion: the City Park Statue and our Flying Tiger.*

In 1914, members of the Women's Relief Corps dedicated a statue in City Square Park commemorating the sacrifice and victory of the Union soldier after the American Civil War. The statue was one of thousands produced and erected in cities across America – at least in the North. Given the fact that more than 100 years have passed and the Civil War is, for the most part over, it's not surprising to learn that there are people today who actually thought the statue was that of our namesake, Francis Marion.



However, there are probably not many people who do not know that the statue in the park, whoever it represented, suffered as one of

the many victims of the 2020 derecho. In fact, his head was detached and was, for a time, missing. The accompanying picture attests to the fact that the head was recovered and remains safe in the hands of the Parks Department.

Proudly, a representative of our board was invited to join in a committee formed by the Parks Department to consider the statue's future. Due to the material from which the statue was constructed (zinc) the skill necessary to repair such an artifact is hard to find. After several months, the committee decided the history was worth preserving, a qualified conservator was identified and the City Council agreed to proceed. William Faulkner was not wrong – history is not past, it is present and future.

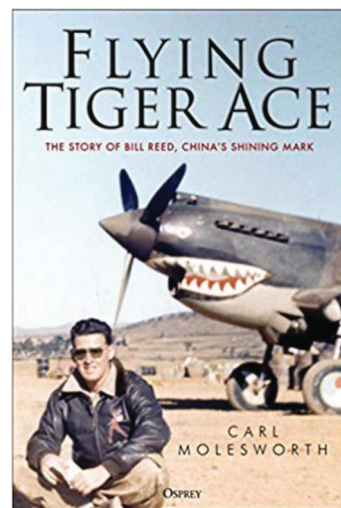


Robert Linder photo

**Bill Reed** was a Marion High School graduate in 1934 who achieved the status of true American Hero, fame and died 10 years later.

Now, almost 80 years later, representatives of the Historical Society have been asked to present the case for memorializing Flying Tiger Ace Bill Reed by designating and naming the runway area of the Marion Airport as "Lieutenant Colonel Bill Reed Memorial Field." If the city council agrees, Bill will become the third Flying Tiger so recognized. Former Governor Terry Branstad who recently returned from his position of Ambassador to China, is quoted as saying that Reed is still known and honored in that country for his service during World War Two. Again, according to Faulkner, history is not just past, it is present and will be in the future.

The complete story of Bill can be found in the 2020 biography *Flying Tiger Ace - The Story of Bill Reed, China's Shining Mark* by Carl Molesworth. The book is available for check out at the Marion Public Library or through most area bookstores.

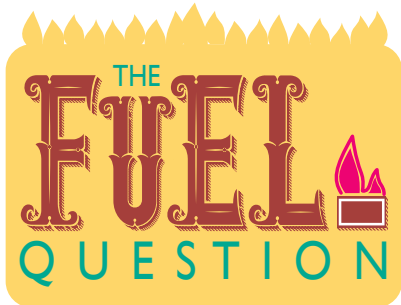


## Marion Historical Society, Inc.

### *Board of Directors:*

Jay Kacena, President  
 Vic Klopfenstein, Vice-president  
 Nevin Meredith, Treasurer  
 Erik Miles, Secretary  
 Vicki Barnes  
 Vicki Hughes  
 Mark Seidl

## OUR CURRENT EXHIBIT



If **you have not** been in to experience the FUEL QUESTION exhibit sponsored by NextEra Energy Resources, you have until the end of April to do so.

This exhibit tells the story of how Marion pioneers dealt with the energy crisis created by their using up all the wood around Eastern Iowa for log cabins and keeping warm! Tough times in our Iowa climate is not a new problem!

Remember our new hours are 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, Friday & Saturday now. Perhaps you would like to arrange a group presentation for your friends or service organization. Call 447-6376.



## OUR FUTURE

**THANKS** to everyone who has contributed to our Endowment Fund and **THANKS** to Hills Bank for managing the account which now amounts to over \$80,000. The future security of our Heritage Center will depend upon income from this fund. Can we become your favorite charity?! Contact Robyn Ireland for information on how to make a contribution.

Marion Heritage Center & Museum  
590 Tenth Street  
P. O. Box 753  
Marion, IA 52302-0753

