



MARION HERITAGE CENTER & MUSEUM

News from the Marion Historical Society

March 2023

Director's Report

As spring moves into Iowa, things at the Marion Heritage Center & Museum are buzzing with activities. Over this winter, two of our volunteers, Susie Stutterheim and Judy Peterson, have cataloged the research materials in the Pat Klopfenstein Library. The list will be updated as we receive more publications. Everyone is welcome to use these resources for research. Look for the spreadsheet to be posted on the Marion Heritage website soon. Judy and Susie are also organizing several decades' worth of obituaries into a easily searchable spreadsheet, also to be posted on the website. Additionally, they have brought new artifacts out to display as we rearrange our space downstairs.



In honor of Marion's long history with trains, we have a 18 inch, wooden model of a train steam engine and coal car, donated by Brian Madeson. Items from Edison's Pharmacy, donated by Ray Sheldon's family, are on display, as well as one of the first typewriters invented. Invented locally in the 1920's by The Handy Sack Baler Co, we also have a baler that rolled cloth sacks into a bundle and neatly tied them.

Our open hours are 1 to 4p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Robyn Ireland

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

See our website: www.marionheritagecenter.org

www.facebook.com/MarionHeritageCenter/

Mailing address:

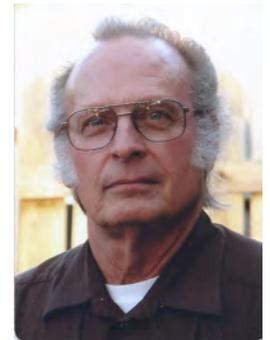
P.O. Box 753, Marion, IA 52302-0753

WORTH THEIR MEDAL



Honoring 75 Years Of Veterans Day

With our "Worth Their Medal" exhibit running through Sunday, April 30, we have over 50 of the highest medals awarded to our service personnel on view, along with information regarding the American Legion Post 298, the largest in the state of Iowa, and notebooks full of names of Marion veterans from the earliest wars through the Korean War. A book containing Mathew Brady photos of the Civil War, the first pictures ever taken of an armed conflict, and the story of Marion's own, highly decorated Lieutenant Colonel William Reed are also on display. We invite you to join us on Sunday, April 2, at 1:30 pm to hear Vietnam vet Bob Peterson educate us on Semi-Automatic Ground Environment (SAGE), the nation's first air defense system, located in Duluth, MN. The SAGE building controlled the air defense of the upper Midwest and Central Canada. It was a restricted and highly classified facility. You had to show your security credentials just to get in the parking lot. Peterson was awarded the National Defense Service Medal for his service in the Army. Later in April, I hope to have one of the Reed family members speak about the Lt. Col from a more intimate perspective. Please watch your email and the events page in The Gazette for that event.



THE
McIntyre
FOUNDATION

Encourages Your Membership in the Marion Heritage Center and Museum

2023 ANTIQUE HOUSE WALK

Sunday, May 7, 2023 • 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Here's your chance to visit FOUR Elite HOMES
in Marion's "Pucker Street" Neighborhood



The MENTZER HOUSE
1325 8th Avenue
Jeanne & Paul Matthews



To Be Announced



The CARDELL HOUSE
1649 89th Avenue
Marsha & Dick Lynch



The MURDOCH HOUSE
1820 8th Avenue
Amy & Paul Russell

Watch for more details of this event sponsored by IOWA REALTY

**All proceeds will go to support
Programs and Exhibits of the
MARION HISTORICAL SOCIETY and MUSEUM.**

Sponsored in part by:



Hotel Motel Grant Fund

ART

BY YOUR FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS



Our
TWENTY-SECOND
annual exhibit of 60
contemporary works of art
by some of our area's
most talented citizens
May 20 - July 29

Oil Paintings



Sculpture



Oil paintings, Sculpture, Wood Carving and Photography as well as Watercolors, Embroidery, Ceramics & Mixed Media.

Wood Carving



Photography



Sponsored by



VOICES FROM THE PAST

History Lessons

It's been said that history is a thing of the past! What good is "looking back?" they say.

But wait! As usual, there's another side to the story, maybe more: History is about people, their lives, their experience and there are lessons we can learn from that experience.

In 1911 the *History of Linn County, Iowa: From Its Earliest Settlement to the Present Time*, was assembled and published by Luther A. Brewer and Barthinius L. Wick, members of the Historical Society at the time. The following two articles should demonstrate that history can be entertaining as well as enlightening:

According to the authors: "Sisley Grove was at a very early time a place where all the settlers, as well as travelers, congregated. Here, also, is located Kuhn's blacksmith shop and hotel. Kuhn was a queer old fellow, who not only was an expert blacksmith but the only one for miles around who was competent to shoe oxen, and was consequently during the winter months a very busy man. Kuhn not only was a good horseshoer and blacksmith, he was a dentist as well and pulled teeth when blacksmithing was slack. At one time he pulled a tooth for an old settler with an instrument used in those days and as it was pretty severe he gave a drink of whiskey to stop the pain. After the fellow recovered his senses the tooth ached as before and the patient learned that the dentist had pulled the wrong

tooth and so informed the blacksmith, to which the blacksmith replied, 'That will be easy to remedy, just take another drink and we will go at it again. You won't be out very much as my charges are only ten cents a tooth.'

And, from the same historical record:

"The first justice of the peace of Spring Grove was John Plummer, but the best known justices of the peace of the early times were Elmer Atwood, Josiah Walton, and Wm. Bleakley. While the people of those days were not free from strife among themselves, yet they were obliged to band together to free themselves from the worst evil - the horse thief. The people finally with the help of the neighboring settlers took the law in their own hands and dealt summary justice to offenders. One of these thieves was followed by the posse to his camp on the Buffalo creek in Buchanan county, and on his refusal to surrender he was shot to death. This put a stop to the stealing."

Two examples of life in early Linn County - enlightening and entertaining for us today. If you would like to learn more about the lives and lessons of "those who came before us" in Marion and it's environs, come and spend some time in the Heritage Center Library.

Marion Historical Society, Inc. *Board of Directors:*

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

*Meetings are held the Fourth Thursday
of each month at 2:30 P.M.
at the Heritage Center.*



IN MEMORIAM: ONALEE ARNOLD

Onalee Arnold, 91, long-time resident and respected historian of Linn County passed away at her home in Marion on Wednesday, February 8th. A member of the Mayflower Society, Onalee traced her family back to the earliest days of America as well as the American Revolution. She was a Certified Record Searcher and taught Genealogy courses at Kirkwood Community College. At 10:30 a.m. on Friday, April 14th, 2023, Onalee's family will celebrate her life with friends at the Marion Methodist Church. A luncheon will follow at 11:30.



ENDOWMENT ACCOUNT UP-DATE

The Historical Society Endowment Committee met on February 20th under the leadership of Chairman Vic Klopfenstein to review the status, the progress and the future of the Fund. As of February 17, 2023 the value of current investments in the fund stood at \$66,865 ... down slightly from a high of \$81,000.

Since its establishment, fifteen individuals have so far contributed \$11,505 to the fund. Donations ranging from \$10 to \$2,500 have averaged \$719 to date and produced an investment account which has so far generated \$9,600 in income for Historical Society operations. **THANK YOU** to those supporters and **WELCOME** to those who are willing to help increase this vital source of income for the future.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUND

There are many ways in which Members and supporters can make tax-deductible contributions to the Endowment Account.

1. Direct cash contributions.
2. Securities or other property suitable for conversion into assets of the fund.
3. Designation as a beneficiary to all or a portion of a life insurance policy.
4. A Qualifying Charitable Distribution from your IRA or retirement plan.

Our **HERITAGE** is our **INHERITANCE** – and our **RESPONSIBILITY** to future generations.

Please consider a gift to the **ENDOWMENT** to assure future income for the Heritage Center.