



MARION HERITAGE CENTER & MUSEUM

News from the Marion Historical Society

October 2026



*Notes from
President
Harold Barnes*

Thank you for being a part of the Marion Historical Society community!

Fall is an incredible time of year to visit the Heritage Center and all of Downtown Marion. The leaves are beginning to change and the temperature is becoming crisp. The rain has got to abate soon. I hope that you will all be able to join us for one of our great events, soon.

Right now through October 17th a really incredible show of quilting is on display in the main gallery. The **Quilts of Valor Foundation**, and Jill Reicks of **Inspired To Sew** are partnering to exhibit more than 30 quilts.

Quilts of Valor are patriotic-themed works that are gifted to service members and veterans. Items from the **Inspired to Sew** collection are based on quilt patterns of historical significance and the work of well-known Midwest quilter Kay England. Several quilts that have been donated to the Heritage Center over the years will also be displayed.

On October 25th from 5 - 7 P.M. one of our most exciting annual events, The Soup Supper, is taking place. There will be a selection of eight very unique soups available, and the great part is ... it is an all-you-can-eat supper. My lovely wife is going to make a very popular African Peanut Soup. Most of the soups will include recipes, if you wish. There will also be a selection of breads and deserts. I will be literally cranking out homemade Pumpkin Cheesecake Ice Cream and Sweet Yam Ice Cream. One can purchase tickets through October 22 by using this link:

marionheritagecenter.org/exhibits-events/soup-supper/

Contact myself or Vic. We have a friendly competition, so try me first.

The Heritage Center will be participating in the brand NEW Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation's expanded, very popular **Free Admission Days into Free for All**, October 19 - 25. Admission to the activities listed in the printable schedule below are free for all. Linn County Arts & Culture Week, a week-long celebration, is inviting residents and visitors to explore the places, people, and experiences that make our community vibrant, including the Heritage Center.

Fifteen participating nonprofit organizations are offering their own free experience, program, or activity during the week. Enjoy a variety of activities including songwriting, dance lessons, the opera, a concert band, pottery, the orchestra, history, and so much more!

Visit one of your favorites or discover something NEW. You can count on a family friendly experience, so bring everyone, and even invite a friend. For a printable schedule of events go to the greater cedar rapids community foundation website [gcracf.org]. At the top of the home page one can see a link the events calendar.

I know you will find several activities to enjoy.

I hope that you all will also consider joining our community as a new member or renewing your current membership. Your membership really matters! Thank you for helping us to preserve, protect, share, and enrich the story of our community and Linn County.

Harold Barnes

Sam Dillon Memorial

Long time Marion Historical Society member, Sam Dillon, passed away in July. His time of remembrance will be Saturday, October 17th at Lowe Park in the Willow Room from 11:00-2:00. Sam was well known for his knowledge of trains and telegraph. He will be missed by all in the Historical Society.

Marion Spooktacular*2026

Haunted History Tours at Oak Shade Cemetery

Something is waiting
in the shadows of
Oak Shade Cemetery

Join Uptown Marion, Linn Mar High School's Venture Academics Creative Writing Class, and the Marion Heritage Center & Museum for a Halloween experience that brings Marion's history to life after dark. We are offering two sessions at 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm, with the earlier session geared toward families with younger children.

Students have researched the people, places, and stories connected to the cemetery and transformed their findings into original ghostly vignettes. As you make your way through the cemetery, you'll encounter stories inspired by Marion's past, brought to life by the students who created them.

**Family-friendly costumes
are encouraged**

Come dressed for Halloween and make your creativity part of the experience for everyone.



Tickets are FREE

but reservations are required for adults and children: Space is limited, so reserve your time slot in advance. An at-will donation of \$10 per person is recommended, with funds supporting the Marion Heritage Center & Museum. We use a tip-supported fundraising platform which allows all of your donation to benefit the Marion Heritage Center and its work preserving and sharing Marion's history. You may remove the processing fee and optional tip or pay by check if you prefer.

Accessibility

This is an outdoor walking experience through a historic cemetery. The route includes uneven terrain, grass, hills, and low light conditions and may not be accessible to all guests. Guests are encouraged to bring a flashlight and wear appropriate footwear. Please consider your individual mobility needs when reserving your spot.

Parking:

Event parking will depend on weather conditions. Detailed parking instructions will be posted the week of the event.



Support comes from the



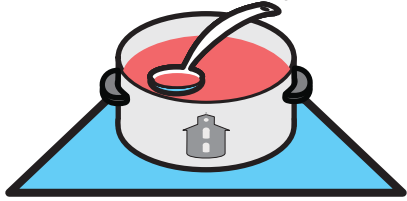
Hotel Motel Grant Fund



Quilt Exhibition Continues Until October 17

More than 30 quilts are on display at the Marion Heritage Museum coming from the collections of The **Quilts of Valor Foundation**, and Jill Reicks of **Inspired To Sew**. Quilts of Valor are patriotic-themed works that are gifted to service members and veterans. Items from the Inspired to Sew collection are based on quilt patterns of historical significance and the work of well-known Midwest quilter Kay England. Several quilts that have been donated to the Heritage Center over the years will also be displayed.





Soup Supper Time!!

It's time to get your tickets for the annual Marion Historical Society Annual Soup Supper on Sunday, October 25th from 5-7pm.

Ticket prices remain the same this year, \$10 per person or \$25 for the whole family. You can purchase tickets at the Museum, from Victor or Harold ... but this year there is a new way to secure your unlimited soup ... just go to the Marion Historical Society's Website and click on the Soup Supper page. From there you will see the process to purchase your tickets through GiveButter.

We'll have your name on a list when you arrive on the 25th! However, you come ... don't miss it! Eight different soups featured this year including African peanut and of course Dill Potato!

THE
McIntyre
FOUNDATION

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

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

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