



Dodge County Historical Society

1643 N. Nye Ave. / P.O. Box 766 / Fremont, NE / 68025 / 402.721.4515
www.maymuseum.com

2015 Board of Directors

Julie O'Hanlon, president
Judy Ekeler, 1st vice pres.
Lori Dahl, 2nd vice pres.
Mary Buller, secretary
Bill Wagner, treasurer
Cathy Driver, Ames
Francis Kassmeier, Dodge
Renee Bunck, Fremont
J.L. Doksansky, Fremont
Barbara Gehringer, Fremont
Linda Hasebroock, Fremont
Jim Manhart, Fremont
Jane Petersen, Fremont
Linda Shepard, Fremont
Joanne Thietje, Fremont
Sherry Slagle, Nickerson
Deanna Wolf, North Bend
Nona Wiese, Scribner
Alex Meyer, Snyder
Joyce Uehling, Uehling
Russ Uehling, Uehling

Jeff Kappeler, director
Pam Pettitt, office manager
Joyce Winfield, newsletter ed.

Sponsor a Spindle



A new railing with spindles on the north side of the museum was installed in 2010. The spindles, made from a composite that will not rot, will frame the museum roof.

Supporters of the May Museum have the opportunity to participate in a different fundraising project for the purpose of reinstalling the roofline balustrade that was on the Nye house in the early 1900s. Approximately 350 spindles will be needed to complete the project, which has an anticipated completion date of this fall.

Individual spindles can be sponsored for \$25, which will contribute toward the actual cost of the individual spindles. Contributors will receive a "I Sponsored a Spindle in Fremont" commemorative pin and certificate of appreciation.

This "Sponsor a Spindle" project is co-chaired by Mary Buller and Judy Ekeler.

Sponsor a Spindle, continued on p. 2

Director's Column

Jeff Kappeler



We regret to inform the membership that our good friend, Sandy (Mrs. Tom) Peterson, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 12.

Sandy was a faithful museum volunteer who became head gardener in 1999. Patty Manhart, garden volunteer, said Sandy was largely responsible for recruiting many of the garden workers.

Sandy was a passionate gardener and contributed many, many hours a season over the years. She also assisted with the annual plant sale, faithfully donated time for Day in the Past each year and was always eager and willing to help with various other museum tasks and events. She will be greatly missed by many.

We are pleased to announce the **winner of the Victorian Dinner raffle. Terry Scigo** will host seven members of her family and friends for a delicious dinner at the May Museum this year.

As always, we wish that everyone could be a winner! Thank you to everyone who contributes to this successful fundraising event.

Watch for a mailing to announce the "Members Only" exhibit opening that will be held in May.

Memorials & Gifts

In Memory of Harold Dunker
Joanne Thietje

In Memory of Travis Freund
Lee & Jeri Gohlmann

In Memory of Dale Harvat
Lloyd & Nancy Morris

In Memory of Ronald J. Jensen
Stan & Twila Sass

In Memory of Michal Martin
Lloyd & Nancy Morris

In Memory of Donna O'Connor
Jack & Judy Ekeler
Marianne Simmons

In Memory of Sandy Peterson
Lee & Jeri Gohlmann
George & Sylvia Hermone
Joel & Jan Jelkin
Jeff Kappeler
Kay Klevemann
Janice Lutz
Jim & Patty Manhart
Maxine Mitchell
John & Joyce Norman
Alice A. Nott
Gary & Pam Pettitt
Bill & Cathy Saeger
Marianne Simmons
Deb Spicka
Karen Vandestowe
Randy & Linda Wagner
Dr. Tom & Carol Waring
Rick & Pat Watson

In Memory of Adeline Pettitt
Jack & Judy Ekeler
Jeff Kappeler
Kay Klevemann
Jim & Patty Manhart

In Memory of Adeline Pettitt
Lloyd & Nancy Morris
Alice A. Nott
Marianne Simmons

In Memory of Patricia Scott
Stan & Twila Sass
R.C. & Peg Templin
David & Sally Thomsen

In Memory of Wayne Sund
Mark & Laura C. Ferraina

Calendar of Events

Thursday, March 17
Quarterly Meeting, 7 p.m.

March 21 & 23
Day in the Past (for)
Dodge County 4th graders

Wednesday, April 27
Museum Opens
for the Season

Saturday, May 7
Plant Sale

Friday, June 10
Ethnic Festival Fundraiser

Sponsor a Spindle

continued from p. 1

"We wanted to keep the cost of sponsorship low so it would be available to more people at that price level. Some individuals are unable to contribute in larger amounts and this is a very affordable way to contribute to the project," Mary said.

It's Time for Some Major Housecleaning



Pam Pettitt checks a form before loaned items from the "Child's Play" exhibit are returned to owners.

Anyone wonder what happens inside the museum once it closes for the season in December and before it opens again in April? Don't even begin to say "nothing."

The four months of January-April sees a flurry of activity behind those closed doors. All Christmas decorations must be packed in labeled boxes and carried to the attic. This includes 12 trees that were decorated for the holiday.

"The entire house is cleaned from top to bottom," said Jeff Kappeler, museum director. This means furniture is moved, floors are cleaned and windows and curtains are washed.

In preparation for a new two-year exhibit, the current exhibit must be dismantled. All loaned items are returned to owners. Museum artifacts related to the previous exhibit must be stored.

Hundreds of items needed for the new exhibit have to be gathered and cleaned," Jeff said. Items loaned for the new exhibit are photographed and pictures are attached to corresponding loan sheets.

It takes time to research items and make labels for display items. Then all items have to be arranged for display in the appropriate rooms.

In addition to preparing for the new exhibit, Jeff said there is the "daily business" that must be addressed. This includes: responding to calls requiring research, planning upcoming events (docent tea and summer fundraiser), writing grants, answering questions about having weddings at the museum.

"It's like caring for a home — a home that's over 100 years

old," Jeff said. "In addition to museum staff, I appreciate the willingness of volunteers who help in many ways."

He added, "There's always something that has to be done."



Jeff Kappeler gathers items for the new "Transplanted" display. The photograph shows the Prof. Mayers Musical Family and some of their instruments. One of their routines was playing music on water-filled goblets. Jeff is pointing to the hard water mark showing the amount of water this glass held.



Linda Cochran packs Christmas decorations for storage in the museum attic.

Pack the Chests —We're Moving to America



Destination Fremont

Our 2016-2017 exhibit is titled “Transplanted: The Early Ethnic Settlers of Dodge County.” Beginning with this issue of the quarterly newsletter, this page will feature items that immigrants would bring with them to their new home in North America.



Packed in Germany, Adolf Nissen's Large Chest was Unpacked in North Bend

The immigrants would carefully pack chests to hold their most precious belongings to accompany them during the voyage to another continent. Jeff Kappeler, director, said there are three types of immigrant chests. Maybe something already in the

home, like a dowry chest, was repurposed for the journey abroad. Or, someone may have built a chest specifically for the move. Finally, a new chest could have been purchased.

Jeff explained characteristics of many chests included: wood was European pine; corners were dovetailed; hardware-like handles, locks and hinges were hand forged.



Small Chest Kept with Immigrant

Sometimes the chests were reinforced with metal (typically tin) bands. The wooden parts were pinned together with wooden pegs, not nails.

Frequently, the owners' names and destinations were painted on the front of the chest. The larger chests would be stowed until the immigrants reached their destination. Smaller chests holding items needed for daily use were kept with the owners.

Come visit our 2016-2017 exhibit titled “Transplanted” that will be open for display on April 27.