



# Dodge County Historical Society

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www.maymuseum.com

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Mary Buller, secretary

## Getting to Know Officers

“You shouldn’t have to be interested in history to see this beautiful home,” said Mary Buller about the May Museum.

Currently serving as secretary for the Dodge County Historical Society (DCHS), Mary said she likes being at the Museum because it’s “always a welcoming place to be.”

Mary explains that contributing to the welcoming atmosphere are those who work at the Museum and serve on the Board.

A teacher for three years at a rural North Bend school, Mary also did substitute teaching for 35 years. Her teaching experience is one reason why Mary says she enjoys volunteering at the Museum for the Day in the Past for Dodge County 4th graders. Students gather in the upstairs Billiard Room where Mary introduces them to a Victrola (trademark name for a gramophone or antique record player). Many of the students have never seen this type of music maker. “The kids can turn the handle and then a song plays,” Mary said. “I love seeing their faces light up when you teach them something.”



Mary Buller is serving as secretary for the Dodge County Historical Society. She is holding a German bride’s box from the 1850s. It will be included in the Museum’s new exhibit “Wedding Bells: Customs and Attire Through the Decades.”

Buller, continued on p. 2

## Director's Column

Jeff Kappeler



Preparations are underway for the new 2022-24 Museum exhibit, which is entitled "Wedding Bells: Customs and Attire Through the Decades."

Throughout the Museum, visitors will see displays featuring wedding dresses and a man's handwoven suit, together with a selection of wedding gifts, accessories, certificates and portraits. See page 4 for more information and pictures.

This new exhibit opens on April 27. Please schedule time to visit the Museum. We hope to welcome many visitors this year.

### Calendar of Events

March 14, April 11, 7 p.m.  
ENGS meeting

Mon., March 7 and Wed., March 9  
Day in the Past (for)  
Dodge County 4th graders

Thurs., March 17, 7 p.m.  
Quarterly Meeting  
Dodge County Historical Society

Tues., April 19, 2 p.m.  
Docent tea

Wed., April 27  
Museum Opens for Season

Sat., May 7, 9 a.m.-noon  
Plant Sale

Sun., May 8, 1-4 p.m.  
Rain Date for Plant Sale

Tues., May 10  
Fremont Area Big Give

## Memorials & Gifts

In Memory of Alex Meyer

Jeff Kappeler

Jim & Patty Manhart

In Memory of Leonard Nielsen

Dale Olson

Buller, continued from p. 1

### Take Time to Visit Museum

Utilizing her lovely penmanship, probably perfected from being a school teacher, Mary wrote with chalk on slates information for Museum display items for the last themed exhibit "ABC and D is for Dodge County." In addition to chalk, she has also used her computer to design various posters and invitations.

Mary has been a DCHS member for over 10 years and has also held the Board position of 1st vice president. Having always been interested in history, Mary said she helped write a family history book published in 1991.

Although Mary says she really doesn't have anything in particular that she collects, she does have special family items like her mother's rings and Hummel collection. Mary said she also treasures her great-grandmother's Flow-Blue china set.

Mary and John, her husband, will celebrate 48 years of marriage in June. They have two married sons and four grandchildren.

Encouraging people to take time to visit the Museum, Mary said, "It's just a treat to walk in and see it all."

### Sale Offers Variety of Plants

The annual Museum plant sale will take place in less than three months. Volunteers are preparing now for the Saturday, May 7 event.

Holly Goldsberry said signs explaining plant names and care instructions are being prepared. She added that 30 new varieties of plants will be available for purchase. An example is a small shrub called New Jersey Tea that is white and grows to just 3' tall. And, Athyrium is a fern with frosted green fronds.

Some of the 24 volunteers will bring cuttings from their gardens. "They are tried and true because we know they will grow in our area," Holly said.

The plant sale will take place from 9 a.m. to noon. Volunteers will be available to answer questions.

# Happenings at the May Museum

## Big Give

The May Museum again this year will participate in the 6th annual Fremont Area Big Give, led by the Fremont Area Community Foundation.

People can contribute on Tues., May 10 during this 24-hour online challenge that raises unrestricted dollars for various nonprofits in the area.

“The Big Give is a convenient way to support the local nonprofits of your choice — including the May Museum,” Jeff said.

He added that donations help to develop special projects and also to sustain on-going operations.

Last year, \$425,651 was raised and there were approximately 2,000 donations for all Big Give recipients.

The fremontareabiggive.org website states, May 10 “is a day to celebrate the power of philanthropy and support the good work of nonprofits who help make the Fremont area a special place to live, work and thrive.”

Donors also can contribute directly at the Museum or give at the Fremont Area Communication Foundation office, 1005 E. 23rd St., Suite 2.



Laura England-Biggs, librarian, speaks to 4th graders in the library during a previous Day in the Past. England-Biggs is the director at Keene Memorial Library in Fremont.

## Day in the Past

Due to COVID-19, the Museum has not hosted since 2019 the annual Day in the Past event for Dodge County 4th graders. This year the students will return on Monday, March 7 and Wednesday, March 9.

“We have missed the children,” Jeff said. “We checked with the schools about scheduling Day in the Past this year and they were in favor.”

Jeff said volunteers who help with the day are also anxious for the children to return. The volunteers portray, for example, storekeeper, music teacher, farmer and Annie Nye’s sister.

Precautions will be taken regarding COVID. “We will wait and see what happens,” Jeff said.

“There’s lots of preparation that goes into this but we will cancel at the last minute if we have too.”

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## Humanities Nebraska

The May Museum has received an American Rescue Plan Act grant. Focus for the grant was lost revenue due to COVID.

For the grant, Jeff said thanks is given to Humanities Nebraska and the National Endowment for Humanities.

Referring to the Museum being closed to the public for two years (2020 and 2021), Jeff estimates about \$7,000 was lost in admissions. Also, for those years, two fundraisers were not held.

# Those Wedding Bells Are Ringing

“Wedding Bells: Customs and Attire Through the Decades” is the 2022-24 exhibit at the Museum. Many aspects of wedding preparations and attendance will be represented in the displays. Jeff emphasizes that he hopes to create an exhibit that will have an overall appeal to women and men.

Pictured below is the bridal gown, hair floral piece and gloves worn by Peggy Mae Larson, who married Marvin Stromer in 1956 at the First Congregational Church in Fremont. Peggy is shown wearing the dress in the small picture.

Jeff said in addition to Peggy’s white dress, a number of the dresses to be featured in the exhibit include examples in colors such as rust, dove gray and peach. It was also not uncommon for wedding dresses of the late 19th century to be black.



John Daubert brought from Germany about 1850 his tailor-made wedding suit (shown without coat). The vest has a hand-woven linen lining with hand-sewn button holes.



Jeff said the shirt possibly was ecru with long sleeves. Daubert settled in Dodge County and was a farmer around Uehling.

The 1850s wedding day accessories include shaving mug, brush and straight-edge razor.



Representing the days of courtship are the items shown above. The picture is a hand-tinted Currier & Ives print from about 1858. It is titled “The Young Lovers.” The cast plastic statuery from around 1880 shows a young man watching the young lady darn a stocking. The silver-plated courting cup is engraved “The Gift of Holahon to SJ Lattin.” It is dated from 1857.