



Dodge County Historical Society

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

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Enjoy Festive Atmosphere at Christmas Open House



Kate Clausen is the great-great-granddaughter of Anna (Jepson) Rix, who was a Tea Maid for Ray and Annie Nye. The picture on the tea cart was taken on the day of Anna's marriage to Soren Rix. Kate is wearing an apron typical of one worn by Tea Maids in the early 1900s.

The May Museum will host its annual Christmas Open House on Tuesday, Dec. 4 from 7-9 p.m. All rooms will be decorated, including 12 trees adorned with a variety of ornaments. Light refreshments will be served. Admission is free.

Guests are invited to walk through the Museum and enjoy the rooms that are furnished for the current exhibit "Transplanted: The Early Ethnic Settlers of Dodge County."

Open House, continued on p. 2

Director's Column

Jeff Kappeler



Changing exhibits is always a mixed emotions time. It is necessary to put away some old favorites, but then that is balanced with having fresh items to view. Our ethnic origins will be set aside for a time, but we hope to continue to build this collection within a collection for the future.

The new focus once Christmas decorations are put away will be capturing the essence of school days over many decades. This will include items from 100 years ago and more recent, which may make you start to think your own school days are worthy of a museum's consideration.

This exhibit will be appropriate for all ages and hopefully will be fun for everyone. Any school memories you wish to share? Call 402.721.4515.

Calendar of Events

Mon., Nov. 12, 7 p.m.
ENGS meeting

Library open at 6 p.m. for research

Tues., Dec. 4, 7-9 p.m.
Museum Open House

Mon., Dec. 10, 7 p.m.
ENGS meeting

Library open at 6 p.m. for research

Thurs., Dec. 13, 7 p.m.
Quarterly Meeting

Dodge County Historical Society

Wed., Dec. 26
Museum Closed

Sat., Dec. 29
Final Day before Museum
Closes for Season

Memorials & Gifts

In Memory of Ruth Dunklau
P.E.O. Chapter AJ

In Memory of Charles Folsom
Jim & Patty Manhart
Marianne Simmons

In Memory of Barbara Groh
Linda & Larry Shepard

In Memory of Clara Haney
Jim & Patty Manhart

In Memory of Elaine Knoell
Russell & Joyce Uehling

In Memory of Richard T. Peterson
Kay Klevemann

In Memory of Linda Revis
Jack & Judy Ekeler
Marianne Simmons

In Memory of Norma Simmons
Joyce Norman

In Memory of Doris Speas
Jim & Patty Manhart

In Memory of Richard Vitters
Russell & Joyce Uehling

In Memory of Charles Wilhite
Russell & Joyce Uehling

Open House, continued from p. 1

Kate Clausen, 8-year-old great-great-granddaughter of Anna (Jepson) Rix, will be a special guest. She will serve guests pieces of date candy made from Anna's recipe.

When Anna was 18, she emigrated from Denmark to the United States in 1904. She secured a position as Tea Maid and seamstress for the Nyes. Anna baked tea cakes and cookies, washed and ironed the tea linens, and polished the silver.

Soren Peter Rix, another Danish immigrant, worked for the Colson family who lived across the street from the Nyes. He drove their horse-drawn carriage. Soren and Anna were married in June 1908.

Learning a new language when Anna arrived in the United States had to be something difficult for her, Kate said. "That would be hard."

Kate is the daughter of Mark and Stephanie Clausen of Fremont.

Preparations Begin for New Exhibit Titled ‘ABC and D is for Dodge County’

Do you know why Dodge County is named Dodge County?

Did you know Dodge County has had three courthouse buildings?

Do you know how many district schools have been in Dodge County?

These questions can be answered by visiting the May Museum when the new two-year exhibit goes on display in April 2019.

Jeff Kappeler, director, said the next exhibit will be titled “ABC and D is for Dodge County.”

Wanting to feature displays that are county-related, Jeff said, “It’s good to go back to basics to learn more about things we sometimes take for granted.”

Items on display will represent schools from the 1860s-1960s. To complement the school display, Jeff said he is especially looking for a sign from a Dodge County district school.

Other school and county memorabilia would be welcomed. Call Jeff at 402.721.4515 if you have items that could be used during the exhibit time period.



This classroom is from the early 1900s in Fremont. Standing in the back is teacher Leah Williams. The wooden student desks have ornate cast-iron sides and folding seats. Student artwork is displayed above the rear chalkboard.

Date Pudding with Sauce

Cheryl Paden shared this recipe that is from her Grandmother Vida Rowe Main. Rowe relatives lived in England. Cheryl’s aunt said this is a very old (and delicious) recipe and the family always made the pudding for Christmas.

1 c. dates	1 c. sugar
1 tsp. soda	1 egg
1 c. boiling water	pinch salt
1 T. butter	1/2 c. walnuts
1 tsp. vanilla	

Put soda over chopped dates. Pour water over them, let cool, then add rest of ingredients and bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes. Serve warm with sauce or whipped cream.

Pudding Sauce

Cook until thick: 2 T. flour, 4 T. sugar, 1 c. boiling water

Add 2 T. butter and 1 vanilla flavoring. (Cheryl said almond flavoring also could be used.)

Visit Museum Gift Shop for Unique Selections

While preparing for the Christmas season, remember to support the May Museum Gift Shop. It takes several days to give the Gift Shop a new look appropriate for the Christmas season. Many unique items are available for purchase.

The Gift Shop is open Wednesday-Saturday from 1:30-4:30 p.m. It will be open until Saturday, Dec. 29 and then closes for the season.



Belsnickels are crotchety, fur-clad Christmas gift-bringers and collectible folklore figures. They were made in Germany from the 1870s until the time of World War I. The figures were candy containers and usually made of papier mâché or chalk. The word Belsnickel originated from a German term “pelz nichol” that translated means "Nicholas dressed in fur." The stoic figures have hunched backs and large faces with prominent long beards. Their hands are often drawn into their sleeves and held closely to their bodies as if they are trying to stay warm.

For the men on your Christmas list,
a poster featuring
the Fremont Brewing Company
makes a unique gift.



German smokers (smoking men) were designed to burn incense and used to bless the hearth and home. Located within each figure is a hollow chamber, created to hold the burning incense cone. The fragrant smoke from the cone is directed to an upper vent. These vents are often the character’s mouth, giving the impression of pipe smoke. Popular folk characters portrayed as smoking men include Father Christmas, toy peddlers, mushroom pickers, musicians, fishermen and fur traders.



Buyers will find a variety of buildings, including snow-covered houses and churches. Bottle brush trees and feather trees are available for purchase. Other items in the Gift Shop include vintage-style ornaments, candle clips and candle holders. There is a variety of seasonal cards and vintage-themed wrapping paper. Santas ranging in height from 6 inches to 26 inches and hand-embroidered seasonal dish towels are also for sale.