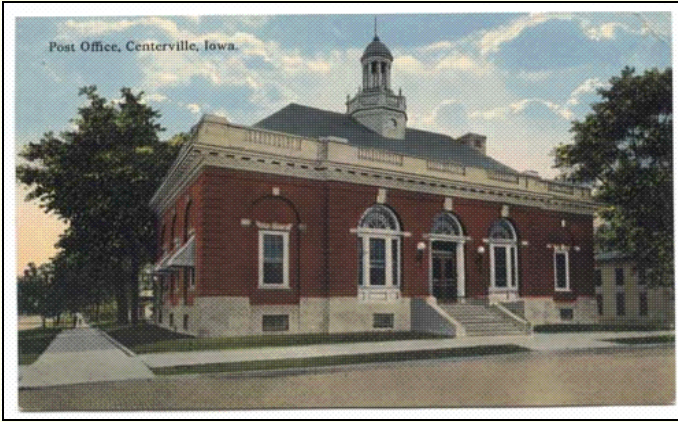


APPANOOSE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPRING NEWSLETTER



Coal Mining in Appanoose County to be presented at Annual Meeting

Inside this issue:

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Curators Corner | 2 |
| Review of Fall 2005 | 2 |
| Snapshot of the Past | 2 |
| Historical Calendar | 2 |
| <i>History Matters!</i> 2006 | 3 |
| Membership Form | 3 |
| <i>History Matters!</i> 2006 | 4 |

Remember!

- Volunteers are needed and welcome for staffing the museum.
- You can order your membership online at www.appanoosehistory.org
- Don't forget, we are open on Pancake Day!
- Don't miss any of the 2006 History Matters! Events!

Thanks for your
support!

Plan on attending the Appanoose County Historical Society's annual meeting, scheduled for Monday, April 24, at 7:00 pm at the Centerville City Hall. This meeting will recap our previous year, and give a preview of our upcoming events and activities. Also, the election of this year's officers will take place.

Our keynote speaker for this event is Doug Wilson, Coal Mining Historian from Knoxville, Iowa.

When asked about his interest in coal mining, Doug says, "Since retiring in 2001 from Vermeer Equipment Sales in Sacramento, California, and moving back to my home town

New Coal Mining Tools Display to be Unveiled

Last year, Humanities Iowa provided the Appanoose County Historical Society with grant funds to create an interpretive display about coal mining tools. The work has been completed and will be open for viewing on the first day of the season, May 29. To promote the new display, free passes to

of Knoxville, Iowa (where my coal mining roots grow very deep), it just made good sense to find out everything I could about what events took place underground, and where, in Iowa. Besides three generations of my family being in coal mining, I've read every book about coal I could get my hands on, interviewed coal miners and their sons, studied maps, collected over 400 old black and white pictures of coal mines, miners, miners' families and coal camp houses, and have walked hundreds of miles following old railroad spurs to mine sites where I take

pictures and video anything that's left to see!"

"I do enjoy so much giving talks about coal mining in Iowa and sharing the information I've collected about mining tools, mining artifacts and my collection of pictures!"

"It is immensely important to me that the 100 year history of Iowa coal mining not be lost or gather dust! I feel if I do not keep this history alive, in another generation, it all will be lost."

We welcome Doug to Centerville, and look forward to his presentation!



the museum will be handed out during the annual meeting for those persons who are not already members of the Historical Society. Take advantage of this opportunity to invite friends and family to the museum by inviting them to the annual meeting!

Curators Corner

The museum has been quiet for a few months, but we are gearing up for our 2006 season! We have received some wonderful artifacts during the off-season that we are excited about!

Sandy Vitolo, granddaughter of the late Earl Gaughenbaugh, donated a collection of photos and artifacts to us, which we will feature prominently during our upcoming Criminal History Day. Earl was Sheriff during one of the most active times during our county's past. Prohibition, the Ku Klux Klan, and coal miners strikes were the issues that Earl had to deal with, and did so in grand style. He eventually became a special



agent for the state, tracking down moonshiners and confiscating their equipment.

Another unique piece that was donated to the museum was a 1920's era mimeograph machine. We thank Mike Knowles for this fine piece of history!



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The family of Opal King had made some donations of their Opals collection, including a doll with her rocker, a unique shelving unit, and a high chair, among other wonderful pieces. Thanks so much to the King family for these items!

Review of Fall 2005 Events

This past October, our second cemetery tour was held with a Halloween theme, called the 'Haunted History Tour'. Over 100 people took the luminary pathway to the gravesites of Governor Drake, Susannah McKee, Jonathon Stratton and other noteworthy residents to hear their life stories recounted by local historians beneath the glow of lanterns.

The tour began at the historic chapel that graces the grounds of Oakland Cemetery,

then over 1000 luminaries guided the guests from one grave to the next, beneath the light of the moon. The atmosphere was eerie and the story-telling was wonderful.

Many requests were made to see another Haunted History Tour, so we have another in the works for October 28, 2006. Mark your calendars and don't miss it!

On November 11 & 12, 2005 an Historic

Photo Exhibition was held at the restored Second Baptist Church, featuring many photos from the archives of the museum. Many memories were recalled as visitors enjoyed the photographs on display. A special display was loaned to us from the Jim Milani family. Turn of the century photos and artifacts from the Milani Ice Cream shop were on display. We thank Jim for loaning us these precious items for our exhibition!

Snapshot of the Past

We are in the news! *Snapshot of the Past*, a weekly feature in the Iowegian that normally comes out on Thursdays, is a product of the Appanoose County Historical Society. Our members and other guest historians submit captions to historic photos to help educate Iowegian readers on various topics from our County's past.

Our 'Snapshots' features are available on our website after they have been run in the Iowegian.

We would like to thank the IBecky Maxwell, general manager, for inviting us to share our stories with the Iowegian community!

The Monroe Depots, circa 1911. Both of these structures still stand today, though the International Display has been moved across the road from its original location.

MARCH 2006

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

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Historic Calendars

By now, you have probably seen or purchased one of the 2006 Historical Calendars! The promotion was a great success, making over \$4000 for our organization!

We have just begun work on the 2007 version of the calendar, which should be available in late summer or early fall. The new calendar will feature 12 more rare historic photos, and many more historic facts about our county.

History Matters! Series Events 2006

Coal Mining History in Appanoose County

April 24 at 7:00 pm at Centerville City Hall

Coal Mining historian Doug Wilson will present a program about the history of coal mining in Appanoose County and the surrounding area. This event will also be the annual meeting and election of officers for the Appanoose County Historical Society.

Criminal History Day at the Old County Jail

June 17 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm at the Old County Jail & Sheriff's Residence on North Main in Centerville

This one-of-a-kind event will be the kick-off to fund-raising efforts to repair and renovate the old Appanoose County Jail with attached Sheriff's residence - one of only three left in the state of it's kind. This event will explore the seedier side of Appanoose County's past, and will uncover many stories of the darker side of the county. Events include:

- Trolley tours of infamous locations
- 'Crack the Case' scavenger hunt for clues
- "I Spy" scavenger hunt for clues (for kids)
- Tours of the Jail and Sheriff's Residence
- Celebrity Jail & Bail
- Jailbird Photo Opportunities
- Jailhouse Grub served on tin plates
- Earl Gaughenbaugh Prohibition era display

- Tommy Gun history display
- Guest speakers
- Kids crime solving activities

This event will be the first of it's kind, so you won't want to miss it! It is part of **Heritage Days**, held in collaboration with the Historic Preservation Corporation.

Local History Awareness Booth at the Appanoose County Fair

July 17-22 at the Appanoose County Fairgrounds

Our booth will feature our collection of historic photos, Appanoose County history trivia quiz, and a slideshow about our county's history, and a local historian available to answer questions.

2nd Annual Haunted History Tour

October 28 at 6:30 pm

Oakland Cemetery

Admission: \$5.00 adults, \$2.00 students

On a dark October evening, follow a luminary pathway to the graves of several significant Appanoose County residents, where their ghosts will relate the story of their lives in our community. This year, we will be collaborating with the Centerville High School Drama department to make this a memorable event for all!

Membership Form

We would like to invite you to join the Appanoose County Historical Society! Annual dues for regular members are \$10.00 each or \$18.00 per couple. Join now and your membership will allow you admission to the museum through the 2006 season!

| | | |
|--|------------------------------------|----------|
| Membership Renewals | \$10.00 each or \$18.00 couple.... | \$ _____ |
| Donations to Historical Society | | \$ _____ |
| Purchase "Towns of Appanoose County" book | \$25.00..... | \$ _____ |
| Purchase "Cemeteries of Appanoose County" book | \$25.00 | \$ _____ |
| Purchase "Courthouse Centennial" book | \$10.00 | \$ _____ |
| Total | | \$ _____ |

Please make checks payable to **Appanoose County Historical Society.**
 Detach this form and mail to: **Appanoose County Historical & Coal Mining Museum**
100 West Maple
Centerville, IA 52544

Dues are also payable electronically via our website using Paypal. Please make any changes to your address on the reverse side of this form and we will change our records as noted. Please include postage in the amount of \$3.00 and indicate if you need any of the books mailed to you.

**APPANOOSE COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

100 West Maple
Centerville, Iowa 52544

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We're on the Web!
www.appanoosehistory.org

2006 HISTORY MATTERS! EVENTS

April 24 Coal Mining in Appanoose County

7:00 pm at City Hall during the Annual Meeting

June 17 Criminal History Day at the Old County Jail

10:00 am to 5:00 pm at the Old Jail and Sheriff's Residence on North Main

July 17-22 Local History Awareness Booth at the Appanoose County Fair

Daily

October 28 Haunted History Tour

6:30 pm at Oakland Cemetery