



APPANOOSE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPRING NEWSLETTER



Fred Stark presents "What You Didn't Know About Iowa" at the Annual Meeting May 3



be held on May 3 instead. Also, the location this year will be the Simon Estes Auditorium at Centerville High School, to allow for a larger audience than the former location.

state parliamentarian for the Lions of Iowa and the Bandmasters Association. He has performed in several music groups over the years, including the Guy Lombardo Orchestra.

Keynote speaker Fred Stark, from Washington, Iowa, will be presenting "What You Didn't Know About Iowa". This presentation promises to be chocked full of little known Iowa trivia that will surprise you, including some tidbits from Appanoose County. He has collected unique Iowa facts for the last 45 years and has been in all 99 counties.

Mr. Stark has also received the highest award from the Iowa State Education Association - The Charles Martin Award. He has also co-authored a book about the Illinois Prairie Path.

We invite you to come out and listen to Fred Stark's vast knowledge of Iowa's fascinating and little-known facts!

Make plans now to attend the Appanoose County Historical Society's Annual Meeting, April 26 at 7:00 pm at the CHS Auditorium. This is a change from previous years in two ways.

The meeting was normally held on the fourth Monday in April, but due to a scheduling conflict, it will

Mr. Stark is a retired educator who taught for 38 years - 10 years in Mt. Ayr and 28 years in Washington. He has been married to his wife, Nancy, for 46 years and has two children. He is currently on the Washington City Council, a position he has held for 7 years, and has served on the Washington Economic Development Group. He is a past secretary of the Iowa Association of Classroom Teachers,

**ANNUAL MEETING
DIFFERENT DATE & PLACE
MAY 3, 2010
7:00 PM
CHS AUDITORIUM**

facebook

**Find Us on Facebook!
The Historical Society Starts Social Networking**

Joining the age of social networking, the Appanoose County Historical Society has created three facebook pages where visitors can go to talk about memories and upload old photos to share with the facebook community. The groups are: Centerville, Iowa Memories, Appanoose County, Iowa Memories, and a page

for The Appanoose County Historical & Coal Mining Museum. The discussion groups are filling up with great stories of days gone by in Centerville and Appanoose County. Please check them out and leave your memories, too!

Curator's Corner

It's been a long cold winter at the museum, but that hasn't stopped us from making plans for 2010!

Inside the museum, we are making room for our new cases, so things look a little out of order, but we are excited to have new exhibits underway. Storage is always a challenge, so we are trying to come up with some innovative ways to use our attic to help rotate exhibit elements a little bit more easily. The access to the attic is difficult, at best.



1836 Map of the U.S.

Gary Criddlebaugh has just finished "The 'Topeka Project'", which, if you recall, was the acquisition of an 1836 Map of the United States that was generously donated by Barbara & Wayne Fernkopf of Topeka, Kansas. Gary Criddlebaugh took on the entire project and we are grateful for his hard work and dedication. He created the archivally safe enclosure for the map, traveled to Topeka to pick it up, and it is now safely affixed to the wall in the main room of the museum. The map hung on the wall of the Vermilya Hotel in Unionville, Iowa during the Civil War. It stayed in the Vermilya Family its whole

life, until being donated to the museum. Barbara Fernkopf is a great-granddaughter of Burr Vermilya.

When the offices of the Daily Lowegian moved to their new location, we were fortunate to receive their old bound copies of the Lowegian. We did already have most of these, but there were several that we did not have and these helped to complete our collection. They also donated several boxes of photographs that were used in the Lowegian and they have been a lot of fun to look through. These will eventually be filed in our research room, where we have added several donated filing cabinets.

We have been very fortunate to receive some wonderful Richard Dutton artwork from Dr. Lee Den Hartog. All works are coal mining depiction and have been displayed in Dr. Den Hartog's office for many years. We



Black Diamond Art Gallery

have created a gallery wall in our Coal Mining Museum, aptly named, "The Black Diamond Gallery" where all of these works, plus some other art pieces that were already part of our collection

are displayed.

Another fascinating piece that was donated while I was writing this article is a Miner's Shrine, given by Anna Barbaglia and her family. According to Jean, Anna's daughter, a Croatian custom was to create a shrine that would be kept in the home to protect the miner while he was at work in the coal mine. The shrine is an elaborate case with a Virgin Mary statue, flowers, coal, and decorated with crosses and mining tools. All shrines were unique as they were hand made by each family. This piece is a must see!



Miner's Shrine

As summer approaches, we will begin work on an exhibit to commemorate the 100 years of Mercy Medical Center. The goal is to have the exhibit ready in time for Pancake Day and also the centennial celebration for the hospital.

We are now open from 1:00 to 5:00 Monday through Friday, and will start to be open on Saturdays from 10:00 to 2:00 on Memorial Day weekend. Hope to see you at the museum!

Lisa Eddy, Volunteer Curator

2010 Event Calendar

May 3 Annual Meeting, 7pm CHS

Oct. 2 Homecoming Open House at the museum, all day

Oct. 23 Haunted History Tour, 6:30pm EAST side of Oakland Cemetery

Watch the Lowegian for more details & for other events that may come up!

THANK YOU!

WE WANT TO EXPRESS OUR SINCERE THANKS TO

KRIS KOESTNER

for blading the snow from our sidewalks all winter.

Thank you so much!



Remember the Appanoose County Historical Society in your will.

April is Membership Month!!

It's time to renew your **Committment** to the
Appanoose County Historical Society!

In the past couple of years, we have been trying to increase our involvment in the **Community**, lengthen our hours of operation, and **Welcome** visitors into our doors. All of these changes take **Support** by the community and our members to keep the museum operating. So please renew your membership today, or better yet, support the Museum in a more substantial way by becoming a **Patron of Our Heritage.**

The Patrons of Our Heritage sponsorship program shows that you are committed to keeping Appanoose County's History alive!! Patron's of Our Heritage membership will provide:

- Admittance to the museum all year
- Two Newsletters each year
- Admittance to Historical Society sponsored events, like the Haunted History Tour
- Recognition of your committment in all of our newsletters and programs for our events like the Haunted History Tour

We would like to encourage all 2009 Patron's to renew your 'Patron' status for 2010 and thank you for support in 2009!

2010 Patrons of Our Heritage Sponsoring Membership

ACHS Regular Membership

Name _____

_____ Single - \$10

Address _____

_____ Couple - \$18

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address: _____

Level of Sponsorship:

_____ Coal Miner's Club (\$50 - \$99)

_____ Chaldea League (\$100 - \$499)

_____ Appanoose Chieftans Circle (\$500 - \$999)

_____ Governor Drake's Council (\$1000 and above)

Please complete this form and send with your payment to:

Appanoose County Historical Society
100 West Maple
Centerville, IA 52544

Thank you for your continuing support!



There is a new website for the Appanoose County Historical & Coal Mining Museum!

It can be found at www.appanoosehistory.com or www.appanoosehistory.org. It is still in the construction stages and will replace the former website that was very difficult to update. Once completed, you will find tons of information about the post office museum, sheriff's residence, upcoming events, and lots of Appanoose County history! Look it over, then keep coming back to check on the progress.

www.appanoosehistory.org
or
www.appanoosehistory.com

Patrons of Our Heritage for 2009

We'd like to thank these people for their generosity and invite YOU to become a "Patron of Our Heritage"!

Governor Drake's Council
(\$1,000 and above)
Christine & Kenton Coons
Barbara & Wayne Fernkopf

Chaldea League (\$100 - \$499)

Lavelle Clarke
Gary Craver
Bruce & Lisa Dickerson
Larry & Carol Drake
Greg & Tina Fenton
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Lyle Kesterson
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Virginia Padovan
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Benedict Vruble
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Jack & Molly Williams

Appanoose Chieftain's Circle

Jim & Beverly Beer
(\$500 - \$999)

Coal Miners Club (\$50 - \$99)

Carolyn Bauman
Patricia DeVore
Bruce & Lisa Dickerson
George & Lisa Eddy
Duane & Nancy Exline
John & Marcia Holeman
Jack & Judy Lamb
Enfys McMurry
O.R. & Polly Parks
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David & Terri Walljasper

APPANOOSE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
100 WEST MAPLE
CENTERVILLE, IOWA 52544

641-856-8040
www.appanoosehistory.com

**BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CENTERVILLE, IOWA
PERMIT NO. 78**

Museum Hours

Apr 1 - Oct 31: Mon - Fri 1:00 - 5:00
Saturday 10:00 - 2:00
Memorial Day thru Labor Day

Nov 1 - Mar 31: Wed - Fri 1:00 - 4:00