



# APPANOOSE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## FALL NEWSLETTER

### Appanoose County Historical Society to Present “*History Matters!*” Series

**Inside this issue:**

Curators Corner	2
Summer Season	2
Historic Photo Exhibition	2
Historical Calendar	3
Membership Form	3
Haunted History Tour	4

**Special points of interest:**

- Volunteers welcome for staffing the museum on Sundays.
- You can order your membership online at [www.appanoosehistory.org](http://www.appanoosehistory.org)
- Don't forget, we are open on Pancake Day!

Thanks for your support!

The Appanoose County Historical Society is about to embark upon a new horizon! We understand how important it is to preserve our past and pass on our knowledge to future generations, so we've decided to bring our stories into a public forum.

Introducing “*History Matters!*”, a series of quarterly public events that will showcase a different aspect of Appanoose County's rich heritage. From gypsum to genealogy, coal mining to cooking, we've lined up some wonderful events that will provide a glimpse into our county's past.

Some of the upcoming topics for the History Mat-

ters! Series include a *Haunted History Tour* to be held around Halloween time in the Oakland Cemetery. We will visit the gravesites and be visited by the ghosts of some of our most prominent forefathers of our county. We also will visit the historic chapel.

You won't want to miss the November event! A *Historic Photo Exhibition* will be held at the Historic Second Baptist Church. There is a wonderful collection of rare photos from the museums archives that will shared with the public. Also, everyone will be invited to submit photos that will be enlarged and matted for a 'Peoples Choice' award.

Some other events we may host include Coal Mining History, The History of the Centerville City Square, a history lesson in the Battle of Mark's Mills, where so many Appanoose County soldiers lost their lives during the Civil War.

**Thanks to IHCC!**

The Appanoose County Historical Society is very excited to announce that Indian Hills Community College has agreed to partner with us on the “*History Matters!*” Series. The support of IHCC is certain to make this new educational mission a success!

### Humanities Iowa Grant Awarded for Coal Mining Tools Display

Earlier this year, the Appanoose County Historical Society was excited to learn that they had been awarded a Humanities Iowa grant for \$800 for the creation of a coal mining tools display.

There are several tools that will be featured in a new interpretive display, which will allow visitors to under-



stand the exact use of each tool. Special lighting will be installed so as not to detract from the dark atmosphere in the replica coal mine.

The project is currently in progress and will be completed by the end of August.

## Curators Corner

We've had a busy summer at the museum! We've been very fortunate to have received two wonderful sets of artifacts from Betty Foster, a longtime Appanoose County resident. Betty has donated an entire display that tells the story of the Nurses Aide Corps that was instituted in 1945 to help relieve the nurses who were extremely overworked during the



war. Thank you, Betty!

The Drake Public Library was kind enough to donate one of the large gold balls from atop the library. During the renovation of the library, these balls were replaced with newer ones. You can see the 103 years of wear and tear. Lightning, hail, baking sun and gun shots have all taken their toll on this large, wonderful tin ball!



The Kopatich Family also is to be thanked for their donation of a gypsum block that they tell us were used in the construction of

a room in their Sidles Automotive business near the square. Gypsum was mined in Centerville for a few years until a competitor bought them out and closed the mine. But it's been said that the Centerville Gypsum was the purest to be found anywhere.



Another debt of gratitude is owed to Betty Foster for donating several large interior and exterior coal mine photos. These will be a wonderful addition to our coal mining displays!

**Come in & see our newest displays!**



**Don't forget to pre-order your copy of the 2006 Historic Appanoose County Calendar!**

## Summer Season Happenings

We hope that you've enjoyed some of our activities this summer!

### \*\*\* Historic Barn Tour \*\*\*

Thanks go out to Linda Zintz for organizing a wonderful historic barn tour on June 4. Everyone had a great time and saw some fantastic sites during this great tour!

### \*\*\* Cemetery Tour \*\*\*

On June 11, The Appanoose County Historical Society held it's first annual Cemetery Tour.

This year the tour was at Oakland Cemetery and featured the gravesites of prominent individuals in Appanoose County's history, such as Governor Francis Drake, William Vermilion, Susannah McKee, Johnathon Stratton, among others. A debt of gratitude goes out to Dr. Brad & Dewey McConville, Enfys McMurry, Gary Craver, Bill Heusinkveld, Jim Senior, and Greg Fenton for telling the stories and to everyone else who made this event a great success!

### \*\*\* Don Elder \*\*\*

On July 22, author Don Elder spoke at City Hall about his newest book, yet to be released, which focuses on the writings of Mary Vermilion, wife of Captain William Vermilion of Civil War and Centerville fame. His comments were entertaining and enlightening, and gave us another look into the rich past of Appanoose County. His first book, "Love Amid the Turmoil, The Civil War Letters of William & Mary Vermilion", was published in 2003.

## Historic Photo Exhibition - A History Matters! Series Event

Mark your calendars for November 11 & 12 to attend the Historic Photo Exhibition to be held at the restored Second Baptist Church!

We've dug through the archives of the museum to bring to you the most interesting and rare views of the county that tell the story of

Appanoose County's past through pictures.

A special feature will be an exhibition of the Luther collection. Mr. Luther was a local businessman and avid (and accomplished) photographer. His photo collection will be on display at this event.

Do you have a rare and interesting photo of a business or area in Appanoose County from the early days? If so, you may submit it to be entered in a 'People's Choice' award. Plus, a copy of your photo, with credit given to you, will be placed in the archives of the museum for future generations to enjoy!

# 2006 Historic Appanoose County Calendar

In November, at the **History Matters!** Historic Photo Exhibition, the Appanoose County Historical Society will unveil it's new 2006 Historical Appanoose County Calendar! It will be a very unique calendar that will laced with historic facts about different happenings in Appanoose County over the past 160 years.

Each month will feature a historic photo from the museum's archives. Also, many of the days of each month will be marked with significant (and some insignificant!) tidbits from Appanoose County's past.

If you are a business owner, this is also an opportunity to put your business in the spotlight! Advertising space is available along the bottom of each month of the calendar. In addition, you may also place your business into a particular date of the calendar, such as the date you opened for business, the date you expanded, the date that a famous person came into your store, or whatever you like!

These calendars should prove to be a wonderful collectors items, as well as a wonderful historical resource.

You may pre-order yours by logging on to our website at [www.appanoosehistory.org](http://www.appanoosehistory.org). You will be able to place your order electronically and pay with PayPal.

If you'd like to pick up yours in person, they will be available on Pancake Day inside the Market Place Deli and at the museum. Or, if you'd like to order by mail, fill out the form below and we'll deliver it to you or you may pick it up.

Don't miss this one-of-a-kind opportunity to own a piece of history!



**Watch the lowegian  
for the next  
"History Matters!"  
Event!**

## 2006 Historical Appanoose County Calendar Order Form

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to pre-order \_\_\_\_\_ calendar(s) at the cost of \$10 each. Shipping will be \$3.00 for up to 3 calendars, \$5.00 for up to 6 calendars, and shipping is FREE for more than 6 calendars! If you'd like to pick up your calendar in person at the museum, please check here. \_\_\_\_\_

Cut out this form, enclose your check or money order for the total amount, plus \$3.00 shipping to: **Appanoose**

## 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 .....	\$20.00 .....	\$ _____
<b>Total</b> .....		\$ _____

Please make checks payable to **Appanoose County Historical Society**.  
Detach this form and mail to: **Appanoose County Historical & Coal Mining Museum**  
**P.O. Box 754**  
**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.

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
CENTERVILLE, IOWA  
PERMIT NO. 146

Email: appanoosehistory@yahoo.com

100 West Maple  
Centerville, Iowa 52544

APPANOOSE COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.appanoosehistory.org](http://www.appanoosehistory.org)

## FALL 2005 NEWSLETTER



### Haunted History Tour



Imagine Oakland Cemetery at after dark, with only dim light of luminaries and jack-o-laterns lighting your path, as you walk amongst some of the oldest gravestones in the cemetery.

The spirits of Centerville's past will be coming out to visit those who are willing to venture into the cemetery on Tuesday, October 25, at 6:30 pm. The stories of ten local lives will be told in the quiet darkness of the cemetery.

For brave high school students who are willing to take the chance on attending, you will receive extra credit in your history class. Is it worth the risk? We think so!



**Become a member of  
the Appanoose  
County Historical  
Society. Fill out the  
form and send it in or  
join online at  
[www.appanoosehistory.org](http://www.appanoosehistory.org)**