



# APPANOOSE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FALL NEWSLETTER



## Haunted History Tour ~ East Oakland ~

The leaves are starting to change their hue and float to the ground - that's our cue to gear up for a busy October!

This year's Haunted History Tour takes a turn for the - EAST. For the sixth annual Haunted History Tour, we will be visiting the EAST half of Centerville's Oakland Cemetery, You may park anywhere along the roads in the west part of the cemetery, as near as possible to the bridge, which will be the entry gate.

We have 'dug up' some very interesting facts about residents on the east side of Oakland Cemetery, and we can't wait to share with you.

Just like before, the pathway will be lighted with 1,000 luminaries, and re-enactors or narrators will be stationed at 10 graves in the area to talk about the life story of each of these individuals.

This year, there will be two tours - a 3:00pm tour for those who prefer to move about the cemetery in the light of day. Is it just too spooky?

Or do they just want to see where they are walking a little better than they could at night? We'll never know.

The evening tour will start at 6:30, just about dusk. As the sun leaves the sky, the luminaries light the way in a gorgeous fall stroll. Sometimes

a harvest moon accompanies the tour- when it does, it's breathtaking.

The "Haunted History Tour - East Oakland" will be held on October 23. Admission is \$7.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students. Once again, there will be some refreshments. And extra credit is available for certain students who attend! What a cool way to learn about some of Appanoose County's most fascinating people! This is a walking tour, but there will be a couple of golf carts to help those who might need some help. Make plans to attend!



## HOME COMING OPEN HOUSE

Once again, the Appanoose County Historical Society will be hosting a Homecoming Open House at the museum during Homecoming weekend, October 2, from 9:00 to 5:00.

This is a perfect way to reconnect and share your memories with your classmates and other visitors here at the museum!

We encourage you to come and spend some time finding yourself in the old Choraleer photos, or looking at what your

father or grandfather did for a living in the coal mines. You can look at all of the old pictures of the Centerville Square, and find the one that looks like it did when YOU cruised around it as a teenager!

We'll have some cookies & hot cider, too. Admission is free, but of course, donations are always welcome!!

## Curator's Corner by Lisa Eddy

Things are on the move at the museum! We've removed some old cases and replaced them with new, we moved some exhibits downstairs and created new ones upstairs. We've hosted several honored guests and several passers-by!



In honor of St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital's 100th Anniversary, we assembled an exhibit that features several old photos, artifacts, and a time line that celebrates the many milestones the hospital has achieved over the past century. This exhibit will remain in place in our lobby for a few months, so please take some time to stop by and see it.

One of the other new exhibits in the upstairs area is a result of much hard work by Debbie Robinson and Dana Moritz, who sorted through the clothing exhibit and categorized

them by decade. They renovated the inside of the textile cases and created a vignette that showcases clothing from the 1910 era. In a few months, they will switch them around and feature another decade. Thank you Debbie and Dana!

I also had some help from Tyler Morgan, a college student and son of Steve and Kae Morgan, who volunteered much of his summer at the museum. He spent hours and hours going through five trunks of sheet music that we 'rediscovered' this summer. John Holeman had originally catalogued all of the over 1,000 pieces of this music, every page stamped "Minckler's Library." After learning about the history of the music, and it's owner, Frank T.R. Minckler, I was intrigued. You see, Frank Minckler was the orchestra director for the Majestic Theater during the silent movie era. As as most of you know, we possess a copy of the silent movie, "The Wonderful Thing", that had several scenes filmed in Appanoose County in 1921. I was hoping that the music to that movie existed in those trunks. As it turns out, most silent movies didn't have their own specific music, unless it was a big budget film that was special. Most of the time, the orchestra director took existing, separate pieces of music that was labeled by emotion or scene type, such as 'romantic' or 'chase' or 'fear' and combined those pieces to fit the movie. What a great learning experience for me, but it was a particularly interesting project for Tyler, as he is studying to become a band instructor, so he was able to better understand the music and notations as he went through each piece. To learn more about Frank T.R. Minckler, come to the Haunted History Tour! Tyler will be reenacting Mr. Minckler.

We received several nice items from donors this summer. A framed newspaper article from the Des Moines Register when the Numa girls captured the State Basketball Championship, a seal that we originally thought was from a

mining union, but it turns out that it was from an organization called the "Modern Woodsmen of America". We also received some very old Centerville phone directories (it's amazing how interesting these are!) and some coal-mining related items. One very nice piece is a model of a coal mine that was constructed by elementary student, Hunter Maddy. He visited with Andrew Ragona about coal mining and was very interested in the subject, so when an assignment came up, he used his knowledge to create the model of the coal mine. Once the assignment was completed and the model could be taken home, I invited Hunter to donate it to the museum and he was proud and pleased to do so. Thanks Hunter!

I was delighted to get to meet Barbara and Wayne Fernkopf from Topeka, Kansas and their son Kelsey Fernkopf recently. The Fernkopf family so graciously donated the 1833 map of the United States to our museum. They were pleased to see it up on the wall and I explained that it is one of the main attractions here at the museum now and we are so grateful to have received it.

I was also pleased to meet Nancy McKee VanDyne, great-granddaughter of Alexander and Susannah McKee. Nancy had never been to Centerville, and wasn't aware that her great-grandmother was somewhat of a folk hero here! Of course, you will remember it was Susannah McKee who owned the Continental Hotel and perished after fire destroyed the building. Susannah ran to all the rooms to save her patrons, and was unable to escape the fire herself. She jumped from a third story window and later died from her injuries.

Another honored guest this summer was our good friend, Himie Voxman, who I am always happy to see! He came about the time that Tyler was researching Frank T.R. Minckler, and so we asked Himie if he remembered him. He did, in fact, and remembers Mr. Minckler allowing him to play with the pit orchestra in the Majestic! Wonderful memories!

That's all for now! See you at the museum!

## 2010 Event Calendar

**Sept. 25 Pancake Day**

**Museum open 10-4**

**Jail & Sheriff's Residence open 2-4**

**Oct. 2 Homecoming Open House**

**at the museum, 9:00 to 5:00**

**Oct. 23 Haunted History Tour, 3:00 pm and**

**6:30pm, EAST side of Oakland Cemetery**

**Watch the lowegian for more details & for other events**

*Remember the Appanoose County Historical Society in your will.*

# HOMECOMING

# OPEN HOUSE

**WELCOME ALUMNI**

and anyone  
who wants to REMINISCE  
about APPANOOSE COUNTY!

**GHS**

At the  
Appanoose County  
Historical & Coal Mining  
Museum

100 W Maple Centerville

**October 2, 2010**

**9:00 - 5:00**

**Admission is FREE!**

[www.appanoosehistory.com](http://www.appanoosehistory.com)

PRESENTED BY THE  
APPANOOSE  
COUNTY  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## 6th Annual Haunted History Tour "EAST OAKLAND"

This year the tour will be held on the  
**EAST SIDE OF OAKLAND CEMETERY**

Visit the graves of 10 fascinating  
Appanoose County residents  
and learn their life stories.

PLEASE PARK JUST WEST OF THE BRIDGE  
in Oakland Cemetery. Walk across the bridge  
for entry to the event.

**OCTOBER 23**

**DAYLIGHT TOUR**  
3:00PM

**DARK OF NIGHT  
LUMINARY TOUR**  
6:30 PM

[www.appanoosehistory.org](http://www.appanoosehistory.org)

**Admission: \$7.00 adults \$5.00 students**

Dress Warmly!

For More Information, call Lisa Eddy 641-895-6323

Cancelled if raining

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The Appanoose County Historical Society has been very grateful for the grants awarded to the organization by the Appanoose County Community Fund, and the Appanoose County Tourism Board!

Grants received last year were used to purchase four, locally handcrafted display cases that have recently been received and are ready to be filled with artifacts! One of the grants received this year will help repair the ailing soffit, and the other will pay for development of another new exhibit that will showcase Appanoose County's Extraordinary Individuals. Watch for that new exhibit in 2011!



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**Appanoose County Historical & Coal Mining Museum**

**Centerville, Iowa Memories**

**Appanoose County, Iowa Memories**

**CHS Alumni - Centerville Iowa**

## Patrons of Our Heritage for 2010

**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**  
**Morgan Cline**

**Appanoose Chieftain's Circle**  
(\$500 - \$999)  
**Jim & Beverly Beer**

**Chaldea League (\$100 - \$499)**  
Richard & Lanna Bratz  
Norman & Margaret Christiansen  
Gary Craver  
Bruce & Lisa Dickerson  
Larry & Carol Drake  
Greg & Tina Fenton  
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Kenneth Vruble

**Coal Miners Club (\$50 - \$99)**  
Gary & Dorothy Barrickman  
George & Lisa Eddy  
Loren & Wilma Eddy  
Gretchen Fadiga  
Dave & Dianna Fenton  
John & Marcia Holeman  
Jack & Judy Lamb  
Enfys McMurry  
Virginia Padovan  
O.R. & Polly Parks  
Otis Seals  
Allen Strickling  
David & Terri Walljasper  
Tom & Mary Sue Zaputil

**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**