



THE VILLAGE VOICE

Marion County Historical Society

Spring 2015

Historical Society Celebrates 60th Anniversary

By Marla Suter

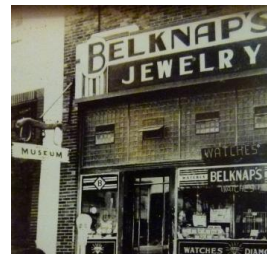
On March 21, 1955, the Marion County Historical Society was officially formed during an organizational meeting held at Belknap’s Jewelry Store in Knoxville. The following officers were elected: President – C.B. Campbell, Vice President – W. C. Palmer, Secretary – Lorene Hausner, and Treasurer – Genevieve Burk. Jack Belknap was appointed Curator.

It was decided that membership dues in the amount of \$1.00 per year would be assessed. The charter membership list would remain open for one month. By April 18, 1955, 126 charter members were recorded.

The collection of artifacts detailing the lives of residents and the history of Marion County has over the past 60 years, moved from the Courthouse to Belknap’s Jewelry store, to the County’s Milk House, or Dairy Barn as some know it, to the Old Machine Shed and then finally to the area we have all come to know as the Historical Village.

Throughout the course of this anniversary year, we will focus on the history of the Society while we continue to conduct daily business and plan for the future.

A special 60th Anniversary event is being planned for June 14th from 1-4pm at the Village, mark your calendars, you won’t want to miss this.



**Be a part of the next 60 years
JOIN TODAY!**

1955 – 2015

Happy 60th Anniversary

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**Marion County Historical Society
General Meeting Program Schedule**



April, May, & June 2015

All meeting programs are free and open to the public.

1955 ~ Celebrating 60 Years of Preserving Marion County History ~ 2015



Monday, April 20, 2015

Program: Pella's Tulip Queen and Her Court

Location and Time: Methodist Activity Center, 308 E Robinson St, Knoxville – 7:30pm

Queen Eleanor Witt with her Court, Leah Wilborn, Megan Atkins, Jessica Vos and Emily Van Gorp will entertain with song, dance and stories. This is an amazing opportunity to get to know this year's Tulip Queen and Her Court and learn about their responsibilities and adventures during their reign.



Monday, May 18, 2015

Program: Historical Society Village Guided Tour

Location and Time: Marion County Historical Society Village

Marion County Park

306 Willets Drive, Knoxville – 7:30pm

Whether you are a new member, long time member or just thinking about becoming a member you will enjoy this guided tour of all 8 buildings! Explore the history of the Historical Society and learn more about each building and the collections they hold. Tour will begin in the Museum at 7:30



Sunday, June 14, 2015

Program: 60th Anniversary Celebration Event

Location and Time: Marion County Historical Society Village

Marion County Park

306 Willets Drive, Knoxville - 1-4pm



Step back in time – unwind, unplug and enjoy a Sunday Social with a 1955 theme. Enjoy cake, ice cream, popcorn and 1950s music while exploring the collections generously donated by past and present residents of Marion County over the last 60 years.

Curator's Corner

In the Society's 60 year history, it has had six curators. The curator is one of the most important positions in any museum as they are responsible for cataloging, inventorying, identifying, cleaning, displaying and maintaining thousands of artifacts. This has always been a volunteer position so during this 60th anniversary year, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to these six individuals who have selflessly given so much of their time and energy to preserve the history of Marion County for all of us to enjoy.

From Jack Belknap, whose meticulous record keeping set the bar for how this job should be performed to Kathleen Smith whose indefatigable efforts have carried us through the last 30 years and who without, we would be lost, a grateful Society remembers and thanks each of you for your part in preserving these important artifacts.

1955 – 1961 Jack Belknap

1962 – 1969 C. B. Campbell

1970 – 1975 Carolyn May

1976 – 1982 Edna Hem

1983 – 1984 Maxine Bennett

1985 – 2015 Kathleen Smith



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Are you interested in a way to honor a family member or friend who has shown an interest in Marion County history? The museum has showcase sponsorships available for \$1,000. All are North side showcases: one end case, and two large cases (1/2 case) and one corner case for a total of six opportunities for sponsorships. The sponsorship includes a small plaque mounted to the case frame naming the honoree. Let us know if you are interested.

Schlotterback Cemetery

Schlotterback Cemetery is located on the VA grounds in Knoxville and was once a neighborhood burying ground. The first burial was Jehu Jones who lived from 1 Jan 1797 – 1 Mar 1845. Burials in this cemetery continued until the late 1880s. From 1845 to 1887 there were 25 known burials. In 1892 the property that enveloped the cemetery became the State Industrial Home for the Blind. The industry of the home was making brooms, making an average of 550 brooms per month. The last resident of the home left on 30 April 1900.

In 1902 the property was transformed into the State Hospital for Inebriates. This hospital operated until 1919 when it was closed. There were two additional burials in Schlotterback Cemetery in 1915 and 1918, both men were patients at the State Hospital for Inebriates, they lie within the confines of the fence in unmarked graves.

Franklin Edwards was one of those two final burials at the cemetery. His obituary was published in the Knoxville Journal on 20 Sep 1915, and is one of the saddest tales of a man's life that I have encountered to date.

CROSSED THE BAR

Sad Ending of An Old Man at Inebriate Hospital

DESERTED BY HIS FRIENDS

Became Victim of Alcohol and Finally Paid the Supreme Penalty - Wife in Mount Pleasant.

Franklin Edwards, an inmate of the state hospital, died last Friday, aged 75 years. Edwards was committed to the hospital about ten months ago from Oskaloosa, where he had been a resident for several years.

Funeral services were held Monday afternoon at the hospital cemetery, where interment was made. The services were in charge of Rev. Boggess, of the First Baptist church of this city.

"CROSSING THE BAR ALONE"

One day Franklin Edwards was committed to the Hospital for Inebriates. The fact of his commitment was proof enough that, like many thousands both living and dead, he had, to some extent at least, bowed at the altar of King Alcohol. Whether or not as a fact he was a habitual drinker of intoxicants, no one will ever know.

His wife was an inmate of the state hospital for insane at Mount Pleasant, and so Mr. Edward's paths wound around the rocky points down the sloping hills leading to the valley of silence.

This old man had, through weary days drawn from the swamps of toil, some property, the value of which is entirely without bearing in this sad case. This old man longed and longed to go home. But it seemed that those of his family to whom he had given so much of toil and care, even his own life blood, were deaf to his cries when in the silent watches of the night he called and called for his boys, to whom he had given the fruits of his toil. But they never came. When they did not come at his call to be with him when the phantom boat left the shore, he offered and begged to give his poor soul to God. Then in that strange place alone - alone so far as kindred ties and dear sweet goodbyes are known - this poor old man "crossed over the bar" and to him was revealed the awful mystery of death.

Still the boys did not come. They made no provisions to carry the cold empty house of a life back to the home land to crumble and decay amid the scenes of his struggles and toil.

So a local minister standing by the coffin talked with God about this old man, his life and his going away; and yet the only purpose that solemn hour can ever serve is a timely warning to the living. And then the hospital authorities dug a grave over in a lonely spot where no flowers save God's own planting ever grew; where no friendly path reveals the footprints of one who mourns; and down there under the trees and the twisted, gnarled and dried brown grass, Franklin Edwards sleeps, dead of a broken heart. The great God who made the world so full of beauty and love and hate and sin-he alone can tell which of the evils, intemperance or ingratitude, bring to the human race the most of tears, and heartaches, and grief, and sorrow and pain. A.B.M.

The Marion County Pioneer Cemetery Commission has restored the Schlotterback Cemetery, clearing brush, repairing the fence, unearthing and repairing headstones and placing signs to mark this cemetery. An Open House at the cemetery is being planned, we will provide the details when they become known. If you would like additional information on this cemetery or any other Marion County Pioneer Cemetery, please contact the Commission President, Val Van Kooten at marioncountycemetery@gmail.com.

Marion County Historical Society

In Memoriam



Dr. Elmer Feldman

Lifetime Member

February 22, 1924 – November 30, 2014



Mae Marie Roberts Wignall

Lifetime Member

October 31, 1921 – January 8, 2015

Recipe From the Historical Kitchen

Grilled Almonds

Blanch a cupful of almonds, dry them thoroughly. Boil a cup of sugar and a quarter of a cup of water till it hairs, then throw in almonds; let them fry, as it were, in this syrup, stirring them occasionally. They will turn a faint yellow brown before the sugar changes color. Do not wait an instant once this change of color begins, or they will lose flavor. Remove them from fire and stir them until the syrup has turned back to sugar and clings irregularly to the nuts. You will find this a delicious change from the salted almonds.

Mrs. Dixie C. Gebhardt -- Knoxville, Iowa

A recipe from *P.E.O. Cook Book Souvenir Edition*, 1908

Compiled by Chapter "M" members P.E.O.

Reprinted by David E. Schoonover – University of Iowa Press, February 1, 1992.

Tidbits

THANK YOU CARLA HUEBLER!!!

Many thanks to Carla Huebler for her service on the Board of Directors. Carla continues as the administrator of the Society's Facebook page and as a lifetime member. Thank you Carla!

A special welcome to our newest member
Jacob Hughes!

Keep up with Historical Village happenings by following us on our web site www.marioncountyhistory.com and on Facebook at Marion County Historical Society

Five new
Lifetime Members in 2014
Craig Agan
Bev Jones
Irma Williams
Diane Gladson
Pat Witzman

Will your name be on the list
in 2015?
Lifetime membership is \$125
Thank you for your support!!



Society members enjoy the recent Iowa Flag Day celebration in Knoxville. Special appearances by Dixie Cornell Gebhardt (aka Carla Huebler) and Governor William Milo Stone (aka Terry Fenoglio).

Board of Directors for 2015

President: Janet Ritchie
Vice President: Helen Boertje
Secretary: Bev Jones
Treasurer: Marla Suter
Curator: Kathleen Smith
Director: Dan Carlson
Director: Ken Six
Director: Dave Ritchie
Director: Roger Brooks
Director: Ruby Dursky
Director: Joan Hall
Director: Terry Fenoglio
Director: Ted Eller
Director: Craig Agan

2015 Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATE

May 23rd & 24th – Civil War Days
Jun 14th – 60th Anniversary Celebration
Aug 5th – 8th – Nationals
Nov 21st & 22rd Festival of Trees

Membership includes free admission to the Village which normally costs \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for students. Pre-school age children are free. Like what we do but can't be active? Your monetary contributions are also valued for support. Those joining after June 1, 2015 need not renew for 2016.

Membership form below may be mailed to:
Marion County Historical Society
P.O. Box 21, Knoxville, IA 50138

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please check the appropriate line:

\$15 for Individual Membership

\$30 for Family Membership

\$125 for Lifetime Individual Membership

My contribution for financial Support

For office use only

Date Paid: _____

Membership Year: _____

Membership Card Issued: _____

Membership List Updated: _____

Marion County Historical Society
P.O. Box 21
Knoxville, IA 50138