



THE VILLAGE VOICE

Marion County Historical Society

Fall 2014

Historical Society Quiz

By Marla Suter

As we go about executing our mission of preserving the history of Marion County, we have to force ourselves to pause and ask, are we also preserving the history of the Marion County Historical Society? On March 21, 2015, the Marion County Historical Society will celebrate its 60th anniversary. We are planning a celebration at the Village to celebrate this auspicious occasion and in doing so are rediscovering some interesting historical facts about the early days of the Society.

How well do you know the history of the Historical Society? Take this quiz and see how you do. The answers are in this newsletter.

There are currently eight buildings located in the Historical Village. Can you put them in the proper date order, from oldest to newest, that they were moved into or built at the Village? The first answer is a freebie, the Machine Shed, it was the only existing building on the property.

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| ___ Machine Shed | ___ Pleasant Ridge School |
| ___ Stagecoach Inn | ___ Museum |
| ___ General Store | ___ Bussey Depot |
| ___ Valley Chapel | ___ Log Cabin |



General Election – Monday Nov 17th

The Marion County Historical Society's General Election will take place on Monday night, November 17th. There are five positions up for election, Vice President, Treasurer and three Directors.

Come and let your voice be heard!!

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Marion County Historical Village
Festival of Trees 2014



Sat & Sun. November 22-23 • 1-5 PM

Bake Sale | Silent Auctions | Favorite Tree Contest | Free Tour of Village Buildings
Entertainment | Demonstrations | Cookies & Beverage

*Vote for your favorite tree with a donation of any amount placed in the container
by each tree. Proceeds from votes are donated to Marion County Action.*

FREE ADMISSION | Marion County Park | 306 Willets Drive, Knoxville

Curator's Corner

By Marla Suter

We are so fortunate to have residents from Marion County and beyond that are committed to preserving the history of Marion County through their donations of family artifacts and other items that enhance the already vast collection of historical items located throughout the Village.

So far in 2014 we have received items from the following people:

Donnie Rodgers

Terri Jordan

Kathleen Smith

Helen Boertje

Bev Jones

Duane Betterton

Donna & Tom Clarke Family

Ron Vinson

Ruby Dursky

Marge Andrews

Jan & Bud Ebert

Swaney Nichols

Roger Brooks

Carolyn Harvey

Linda Carson Bailey

Mary Ann Johnson

Howard Davis

Jeff Sinnard

Carl Nollen

Diane Gladson

Marye Goemaat

Terry Fenoglio

Frances Kirkwood

Lew & Connie Vinson Brent

Craig Agan

Knoxville Community Schools

Charlotte Shivers

Karen Metcalf Ackley

Willets Family

Brent Hanna

Arlyn Perkey

And the list continues to grow.....



A special Thank You
to Paul Maddy for
sponsoring a
showcase in honor of
his parents, Helen
and Herman Maddy.
A plaque has been
placed on the
showcase.

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, one corner cases, and one large case (1/2 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.

Where Did the Summer Go?

By Marla Suter

Another summer season at the Historical Society has come and gone in the blink of an eye. It was a busy one. The season kicked off with the second annual Civil War Days, it was a huge success and will be returning next year with even more events. The Saturday evening tour and cannon fire was a particular favorite among many visitors.

We had quite a few tours this summer, thanks to everyone who volunteered their time to conduct the tours on weekends and during the week.

The annual Nationals Breakfast was hosted by the Society this year with our faithful partners the Knoxville Lions Club and it also was a rousing success. We have a new stovetop in the Machine Shed which made it much easier on those who prepared the biscuits and gravy.

RVTV made a return appearance to Knoxville in September and the newly painted Dunbar Popcorn was featured on WHO-TV. Fun was had by all!!

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR



President Lincoln addresses crowd

Cannon Fire over Graceland Cemetery



Dunbar Popcorn Wagon at RVTV in September



Society Mourns Loss of Generous Supporter

Mary Dorathea Willson Noftsger

October 14, 1914 - April 8, 2014

Mary Dorathea Willson Noftsger was born on October 14, 1914 in Blue Hill, Nebraska, the daughter of Dora and George Willson. She attended kindergarten thru high school in Blue Hill, where she enjoyed sports and being in the high school pep club. Mary was baptized and confirmed in St. Paul Lutheran Church in Blue Hill. She sang in the choir at the St. Paul Lutheran Church and also in First Presbyterian Church in Hastings, Nebraska. She graduated from Hastings Presbyterian College in Hastings, where she received her letter, sweater and blanket in college sports. Other colleges Mary attended were Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, Atlantic Christian College in Wilson, North Carolina and East Carolina College in Greenville, North Carolina. Mary taught in the public schools for 30 years. She taught in Nebraska, Colorado, Iowa and North Carolina. For three years, she has Miss Mary's Kindergarten in the Spilmen Baptist Church before North Carolina had kindergarten in the public schools. Max and Mary were married in the First Presbyterian Church in Hastings. Max had returned from the United States Air Force where he was a pilot and captain of the Flying Tigers. As a child, a tornado took their farm house and outbuildings. She and her family were safe inside a cement cave when the tornado hit. Her life was also spared when her house caught on fire due to a tree that fell on the power line going into their home. She also lived through the 1930 dust storms, the Great Depression, and World War II.

Max and Mary loved to travel. They took a riverboat cruise from Amsterdam to Vienna, a paddlewheel boat down the Mississippi, along with a Caribbean cruise. They enjoyed visiting countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, South and Central America and all 50 states in the U.S. Max and Mary attended many Flying Tiger conventions and also Memorial Day ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. Max and Mary loved to fish from their yacht in the Atlantic Ocean and enjoyed spending time at their condo in Atlantic Beach. Mary was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Denver, Colorado and attended the First Presbyterian Church of Kinston, North Carolina, Chi Omega Psi sorority, University Women's Club, City Women's Club, the U.S. Power Squadron Boating Club and a member of the retired school personnel. She enjoyed music (composed and wrote lyrics to the Southwood School Song and the Power Squadron Boating Song), oil painting, needle crafts, gardening, writing short stories and poetry, sports, boating and fishing both in ponds and the ocean.

Mary is preceded in death by her parents, George and Dora Willson; her husband, Max Noftsger; three sisters, Pauline Elliott, Eunice Weingart, and Elizabeth Cieloha; and a nephew, David Weingart.

She is survived by a half-sister, Marjorie Lockhart of Bladen, Nebraska; sister-in-law, Virginia Patterson of Whittier, California; three nieces, Kathryn (Gary) Kile of Hastings, Nebraska, Meri (Joe) Boosel of Noblesville, Indiana and Sue Elliott of Olympia, Washington; nephew, Philip (Barbara) Weingart of Santa Ana, California; eleven great nieces and nephews; and twenty-four great-great nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be held on Tuesday, April 15 at 11 a.m. at the Columbia Cemetery with Pastor Brent Hanna officiating. For those desiring, memorial contributions may be made to the First Presbyterian Church of Kinston, North Carolina. Williams Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

A Memorial Service was held at the First Presbyterian Church in Kinston, North Carolina with Pastor Wanda Neely officiating.

In Memoriam



Wilma Fern Six
December 17, 1935 – October 28, 2014



Max Dean Hall
September 28, 1934 – November 7, 2014

***Renew your membership now for 2015. Do you
have a friend or family member that may be
interested in joining? What a great Christmas gift!***

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

Three new Lifetime
Members in 2014

Bev Jones
Craig Agan
Irma Williams

Will your name be on the list
in 2015?

Lifetime membership is \$125
Thank you for your support!!

Answers to quiz.....1 – Machine Shed; 2 – Pleasant Ridge School; 3 – Valley Chapel; 4 – Log Cabin; 5 – Museum;
6 – General Store; 7 – Stagecoach Inn; 8 – Bussey Depot.

Board of Directors for 2014

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: Carla Huebler
Director: Craig Agan

Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATE

Nov 17th – General Meeting and
Election

Nov 22nd & 23rd - Festival of Trees

Mar 21st – 60th Anniversary
Celebration

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
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