

Marion County
Historical
Society

The Village Voice

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Summer 2017

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Summer is Here!

It's official - summer has arrived. The Museum and Historical Village are now open for the summer.

Tell all your family, friends, neighbors, and church members, we are open every weekend between Memorial Day and Labor day, Saturdays and Sundays from 1:00pm - 5:00pm.

We had a successful Salute to Freedom event this year on Saturday, June 10th, despite the sweltering temps and competing activities around the county and now we are busy planning our annual Nationals Breakfast, Aug 9, 10, 11, 12. Look for more infor-

mation on that in this newsletter.

You will notice some changes at the Village this year. We have new signs for the Machine Shed, General Store and Stagecoach Inn. Valley Chapel has been painted and great progress is being made to update the display areas in the Machine Shed.

Work continues on the sorting, organizing and displaying options for the collections in the Ma-

chine Shed back room. If you are available to help with this project in any



way, please contact Dan Carlson,

Special points of interest:

- Knoxville Nationals Pancake Breakfast Aug 9, 10, 11, 12
- Upcoming Meetings - July 17th and September 18th
- Summer Hours - Sat & Sun - 1:00pm - 5:00pm
- Follow us on Facebook for all the latest news and information!

New Meeting Schedule

We are going to try a new meeting schedule for the summer and see how it works. Rather than having two meetings a month, a general meeting and a board meeting, they will now be combined into one

meeting.

The new meeting schedule will begin Monday, July 17th at 7:30pm at the Methodist Activity Center. The format will be business meeting, program, board meeting.

There will not be a meeting in August, however this new format will resume on September 18th, same time, same place.

The public will be excused during the board meeting portion.

Museum Library Updated

The museum library was recently updated with a few new shelves, and lots of reorganization. This is one of the best kept secrets in Knoxville for researchers.

This library contains mountains of genealogical data, community interest items, school records, year books, photographs, military records and volumes of other information. If it happened in Marion County, chances are there will be some mention of it stored in this library.

There are also several filing cabinets full of files on items of inter-

est and people who have lived in Marion County filed alphabetically by subject.



The obituary project was completed last year so now you can

easily find all obituaries in our possession from the late 1800s through the current day.

We also have a "Marion County Authors" section where you can find books published by local authors.

This library is constantly being updated by our Curator, Kathleen Smith, as new material comes in.

Access to this library alone is worth the annual Society membership fee of \$15.

Knoxville Nationals Pancake Breakfast

We will once again have the Nationals Pancake and Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast at the Village in the Machine Shed, Wednesday through Saturday mornings, August 9, 10, 11, and 12 from 7:00 - 10:30a.m.

The committee members supporting this are Bev Jones,



Dan Carlson and Ken Six. More information will be passed out as the date gets closer, but please start looking at your calendars and see when you will be available to help out this year.

Also, something new this year, we will have the Museum and Village open for

tours on these 4 days during Nationals from 10:00a.m. to 5:00p.m.

We will not have people assigned to each building, the tours will operate the same as they do on regularly scheduled weekends requiring a team of two tour volunteers. Hopefully, they will be very busy!

Please attend the July 17th meeting for more info.

What is this?

Do you know what this is and what it was used for in the days of early Marion County history?

Send us a post card with your best answer to:

Marion County Historical Society,
P.O. Box 21, Knoxville, IA, 50138.
Include your name, address and

phone number.

A winning entry from all the correct responses will be selected during the Nationals Breakfast and that person will receive a free annual membership to the Society.

All entries must be received by August 1st.

Good Luck!



Schlotterback Chair

The Schlotterback chair is on display in the dining room at the StageCoach Inn.

This chair was made for Elizabeth Hartman Schlotterback by her husband John Schlotterback in the early 1800s while the couple was living in Milltown, Indiana.

Elizabeth was born in 1780 in Silvers Grove, Pennsylvania. She married John Schlotterback and the couple made their way from Pennsylvania to Ohio, then to Indiana and finally arriving in Knoxville in 1847.

Elizabeth and John raised six children to adulthood, George,

John, Peter, Elizabeth, Michael,



and Sarah, all of whom were quite probably rocked to sleep in this

very chair.

Elizabeth died May 3, 1874, at her residence in Knoxville following an illness of about two weeks aged upwards of 97 years. Her husband John died in May, 1861.

Both John and Elizabeth are buried in the Schlotterback Cemetery which is located on the VA grounds.

This chair, now over 200 years old, was donated to the Society by family members, having survived wagon rides as the family moved West and after providing the Schlotterback family descendants countless hours of soothing comfort.

Samuel Caffrey Log Cabin

The log cabin at the Village was built by Mr. Samuel Caffrey in 1835 on a farm north of Pleasantville. It was originally a two-story cabin. It was moved into the Village in 1967. The structure is now 182



years old. The cabin was donated to the Society by Mr. Fred Richards.

It was disassembled, the logs numbered, moved and reassembled at the Village. The door, floor and chimney were added on site.

The cabin is furnished as it may have been in the mid 1800s. A feather tick on a rope bed, an old trunk, pie safe, fireplace crane, loom, table, and baby bed were about all that would fit into a 14 x 18 foot home.

The original "tiny home living" house. In the 1840s, most living was done outside.

Historical Society Membership

Membership in the Marion County Historical Society is based on the calendar year, January 1st to December 31st.

Annual Membership dues are \$15 per individual, \$30 per family. Any dues collected after October 1st are credited to the following membership year.

Lifetime memberships are available for \$125 per person.



Membership entitles each member to free admission into the Museum and Village.

The Society currently has approximately 110 members, nearly half of them are lifetime members.

Dues may be sent to MCHS, PO Box 21, Knoxville, 50138 with your name, address, phone and email.



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Marion County Historical Society

Preserving The Past

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Marion County Historical Society & Knoxville Lions Club



Pancakes And Biscuits & Gravy Breakfast!

Wed./Aug 9 thru Sat./Aug. 12 of Nationals Week
At Marion County Park on Willetts Drive

- Serving 7:00 - 10:30 am -
\$7/adults & students • kids 5 & under/free



Festival of Trees

When it is 94 degrees outside, it is hard to start talking about the Festival of Trees, but plans are already under-way for the 2017 Marion County Historical Society's Festival of Trees event.

Last year we were unable to have the event because we just could not line up enough people to help, but things are looking up for 2017.

This year the Festival will be held at the Village on Nov 18th and 19th. It truly does take a "Village" to pull off an event this size, so any and all help will be greatly appreciated.

We will begin contacting organizations, businesses and individuals in mid-September to bring their trees to the event.

The 2017 Festival of Trees commit-



tee members are: Marla Suter, Bev Jones, Marye Goemaat, Kathleen

Smith, Dan Carlson and Ken Six.

If you would like to help out this year, please let any one of those committee members know.

This event will feature decorated Christmas trees in all of the Village buildings, entertainment, refreshments and maybe even a visit from Santa.

Stay tuned for more information.