



BANNER

Dawson County Historical Society

got its own home in 1969.

This photo shows the lake, the new museum building and the Willow Island depot.

Find Taft Street along the bottom of the photo and 7th Street angling to the west on the left side.

The building has changed over the years, but it is still located in the same place. The depot was repositioned when we acquired the train engine.



This photo was taken by Paul Pack last summer.

Again, Taft Street is at the bottom, 7th Street in the top left corner, but the lake is surrounded by trees. This winter the trees on the west side were taken out. By next year there will be fishing docks built in along that shoreline.

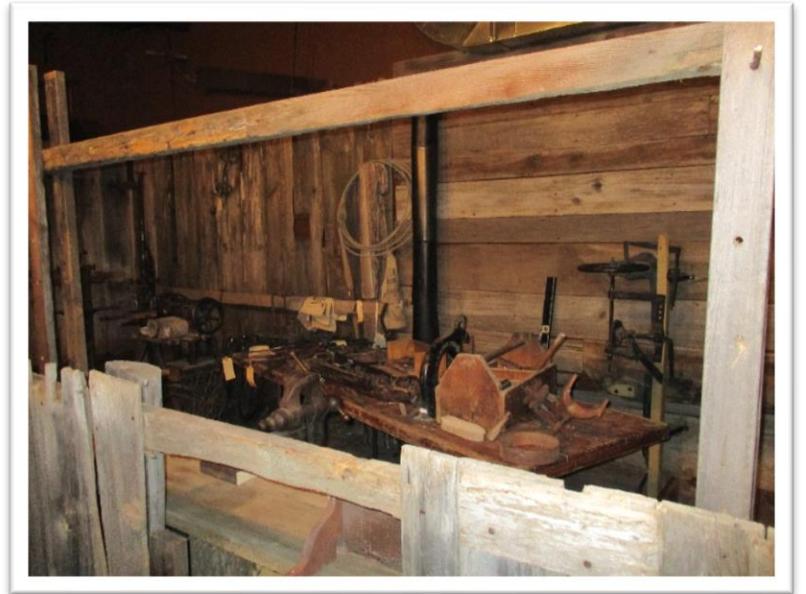
The Train Engine was moved from Hwy 30 to museum grounds in 1980.

The red-roofed addition connected the original building and the Ag Building in 2007. Reed School and Fairhaven Church were also moved to their current locations about that time.

Update on "The Loop"

We have lights!!!

For a man who has been working to complete an exhibit in near dark conditions these three words are the loveliest sounding words on the planet! At least, that's the way John Jordening reacted when I told him the next step in renovating The Loop had been accomplished.



It's all coming together, and I am so excited.

The work began almost two years ago when the 2015 Dawson County Leadership Class took on the project of cleaning out the "loop" area in the museum to make room for renovations. In 2016 during the Give Big Lex campaign we raised \$12,000 to begin working on "The Loop" and by the end of 2017 we were able to begin installing some exhibits. At this point we've spent over double the amount we raised, but we've been fortunate to receive grant monies from Lexington Convention & Tourism and Thrivent that have greatly helped cover many of the expenses.

If you haven't been in to see the changes, you really need to come look around! John Jordening has overseen much of the work that has gone into the renovations. He has also created the blacksmith, carpenter, and leather shop exhibit. We've contracted out most of the work though we've had board members and volunteers come in to paint walls. Chuck Tilson, of Elwood, is the one to thank for the very beautiful and very big barn door, and Primary Electric should really get an award for putting up with me changing my mind about the lights a million times.

With this project being very near open visitors can now walk "around" the museum. Before we started work on The Loop the Main Gallery ended after the Mainstreet exhibit. You would then have to turn back and retrace your steps through the museum to get back to the entrance or to the restrooms that are located on the other side of the Art Gallery. Having The Loop done will make it so much nicer to explore the museum. Plus, it gives us space for more exhibits!

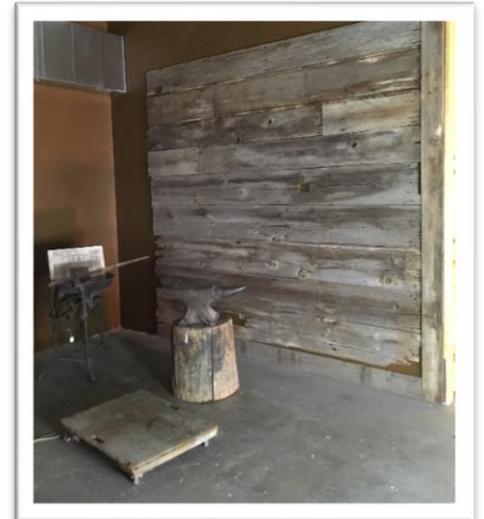
--- Crystal Werger



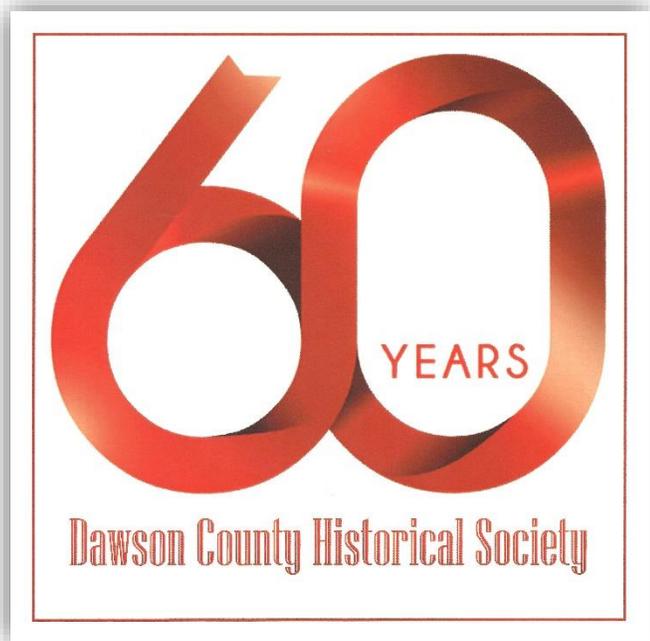
John at the end of a day



John Jordening & Janet Quitmeyer giving the walls some color



Walls in the Blacksmith's Corner



DCHS 60th Anniversary

This year the Dawson County Historical Society is celebrating its 60th Anniversary. On August 19, 1958 at the home of Roy and Beulah Batie a group of people met to talk about organizing a County Historical Society. The first "official" meeting was held at the Cornland Hotel in Lexington on October 16, 1958. By September 22, 1960 the Dawson County Historical Society became a non-profit organization and was given a home in the Rosenberg building in 1961. Articles of Incorporation were signed October 7, 1963 and filed with the State of Nebraska on December 13, 1963. On July 10, 1964 the Dawson County Historical Society was given a 9-acre plot of land by the Harley Kirkpatrick family to build a museum. A groundbreaking ceremony was held October 14, 1967 and by May of 1970 the museum building was open for business.

Since then the museum has had three additions with the latest one more than doubling its original size. The Dawson County Historical Society grew quickly from the beginning, constantly acquiring more and more items for their collection. And not all of them were easily housed in a building. The old District #55 Schoolhouse, now known as the Reed Schoolhouse, was donated to the Historical Society in 1959 by the Reed Family. At the time the Dawson County Historical Society didn't have a home so Joe Morgan and Ed Cook, members of the Historical Society, went to a city council meeting to request a home for their first exhibit. For several years the Reed Schoolhouse sat in Plum Creek Park (today known as Kirkpatrick Memorial Park) until it was moved to its current location on the museum grounds. Once the land was obtained and building started on the museum, more historical buildings were donated to the Society making a nice looking "village" around our current museum building.

A lot has happened in the last 60 years that has contributed to the growth of not only the Dawson County Historical Society but also to the museum itself. The Museum exhibits many collections from all over Dawson County spanning from the early days of the county right up to the present. In one of the early membership letters in which the Dawson County Historical Society was trying to raise funds to build a museum it states that the purpose of a museum is to "preserve the incidents of history. The tools, implements, machinery, utensils, household furnishings used by those before us in the developments of our area and of our present way of life. To foster an appreciation for the labors and sacrifices in that development."

I think the founding members of the Dawson County Historical Society would be pleased to see what we've done with the museum today and what we have yet to accomplish. I know they would enjoy seeing the McCabe Aeroplane and the old cars in front of the Lincoln Highway mural. They would be delighted with the welcoming nature of the Museum and its outside exhibits. I'm sure the men would be overwhelmed with the amount of farm machinery we have on display inside and outside the museum and the ladies would be happy with the wealth of quilts and wedding dresses we have carefully tucked away in our collection.

The Dawson County Historical Society and Museum continues to take great care to "preserve the incidents of history" and we strive to make the museum an inviting place to visit where people can have fun learning about Dawson County history. I wish I could thank the founding members and all the members since then for taking good care of our history! I want to thank all the Directors, staff, and volunteers that came before me that made this museum into what it is today. They left us a legacy that is ours to protect and continue. This year is dedicated to those people that loved the history of Dawson County, and their perseverance continues to fuel our passion for the museum today.

--- Crystal Werger, Director

Articles of Incorporation Dawson County Historical Society

FILED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, STATE OF NEBRASKA

December 13, 1963

Board of Directors

Paul E. Pape, Gothenburg	Wayne R. Osborn, Lexington
Florence (Edwards) Greene, Gothenburg	Clyde Wallace, Smithfield
Mabel Montgomery, Cozad	Thomas Brennan, Overton
C. Gust Karlberg, Sumner	Lee Norall, Overton
E.A. Cook III, Lexington	

Signed Members of the Corporation

Katie (Baldwin) Anderson	Raymond Emerson	Eva (Foreman) Osborne	LaVon (Berryman) Pape
Alva T. Anderson	Annette Jacobson(Emerson)	Wayne R. Osborne	Paul E. Pape
Jennie (Frates) Kirkpatrick	Frankie(Williams)Rosenberg	Irene Lamma	Myrtle (Hollibaugh)Hofferber
Hattie Knapple (Hitchmough)	Gertrude (Memmott)Stuckey	Mildred (Crane) Rosenberg	J.J. Hofferber
Edward L. Knapple	W. Blair Heath	Anna (Rice) Jacobson	Margaret Knapple
Helen (Teets) Alkire	Wm. Clyde Wallace	Mabel(Burdeau)Montgomery	Beth Rhone
Gustav A. Plank	Bernis (Meeks) Wallace	Nell (Schetrompf) Bolen	Thomas J. Brennan, Sr.
Melanie (Piller) Plank	Mary (Waller) Darling	Florence (Edwards) Greene	George W. Fagot
Carl V. Gardner	Joseph W. Morgan	Roy Batie	Tena (MacLean) Fagot
Helen (Brody) Gardner	Stella (Shaw) Morgan	Beulah (Ward) Batie	Wylie Ward
Carl Gust Karlberg	Lee Norall	Olga (Nielsen) Sheldon	Helen (Plumb) Ward
Charles Conger	Harry L. Williams	Pauline Grantham	Audrey (Dawson) York

We are seeking photos and bio information on our Charter Members, if you can help, give us a call. Thanks.

CHARTER MEMBERS

During this year we will be featuring early members the Historical Society and other Dawson County families who have generously contributed to our museum's collections. Check in with us to see some of their fascinating artifacts. Learn the stories of individuals who knew it was important to preserve pieces of history so generations can learn from the past. These are the faces of some of those people. If you have photos or info on any of the charter members, please send them to us. Thanks!



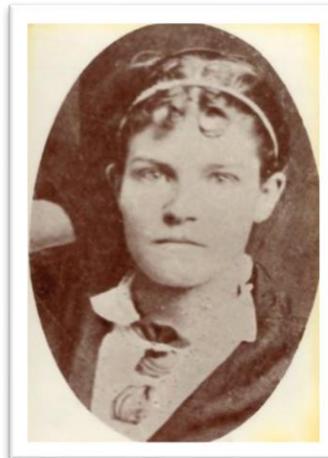
Beulah & Roy Batie hosted the very first DCHS meeting.



*Nell Bolen
Evergreen Cemetery
Research*



*W.C. Bloom
Superintendent
County Schools*



Mary Darling



*Olga (Nielsen) Sheldon
Olga Sheldon Trust
Sheldon Art Gallery*



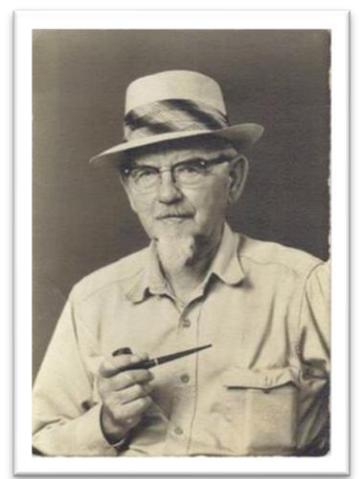
*Clyde Wallace
Historian*



*Margaret Knapple
LHS Principal*



Gertrude Stuckey



*Gustav Plank
WWI Veteran*



2018 DCHS Annual Meeting



This year our Annual Meeting of the Membership took place on Saturday, February 24, at the Dawson County Museum in Lexington. We tried something different this year and served a lunch of soup and cinnamon rolls at 11:30 a.m. with the meeting to begin at noon. Even though the day started a little icy we had a nice crowd of 35 people.

We had no new board members to introduce during our meeting, but we did hang on to a few members that had completed their terms this year. Jan Wightman, Donn Newquist, and Mike Hudson will be remaining with the Dawson County Historical Society Board of Directors for another three years. Currently, we have a Board of ten Directors:

Scott Foster (Gothenburg) – President
Mike Hudson (Cozad) – Vice President
Jerry Lashley (Eddyville)
Shail Kumar (Lexington)
Pat Gaudreault (Cozad)

Don Batie (Lexington) – Treasurer
Courtney Anthony (Lexington) – Secretary
Jan Wightman (Lexington)
Wayne Howard (Cozad)
Donn Newquist (Sumner)

We can take new members to the board at any time during the year, so I hope we will gain a few new members. I think it's important to get new people involved in the Dawson County Historical Society, not only to give our "tried and true" a rest, but it's a great way to educate people on the history of our area and to get fresh ideas for our museum!

During the meeting we spoke about the work I'd like to see accomplished this year at the museum. 2017 was an amazing year! We kept so busy with events and temporary exhibits, that not much got done in the heart of the museum. As with people, the heart is what keeps everything running smoothly, so we need to make sure all the internal organs of the museum are being taken care of too! As we work on completing the Mainstreet display we'll be making sure everything is inventoried correctly and added to our museum software Past Perfect. It takes a long time to do this, but it is so worth it in the end!

Now that we have lights in The Loop we will also be working on new/old exhibits in there as well. The back part of the museum just really needs our attention this year and our goal is to really focus on that area. We will continue to have art gallery exhibits every 6-8 weeks, but our main concentration will be on finishing many loose ends that have needed tying up for several years now.

But that's not to say that there won't be any fun at the Dawson County Museum. We're working on a car show Memorial weekend, another Tea in September, and a Trivia Night in November! And we're still going to have Coffee with Carol the first Wednesday of every month. And who knows what else we might come up with...we're not complete party poopers!

We adjourned the annual meeting with a video of the 1939 & 1941 Plum Creek parades and the digging of the Tri-County Canal. If you missed the Annual Meeting and you're interested in watching it, please contact the museum.

--- Crystal Werger

Plum Creek Quilters Guild

Quilt Show Celebrating Their 30th Anniversary
Art Gallery through April 12th