

# BANNER

*We are busy, busy, busy!*

*Here are some snapshots from a week in the life of our DCHS Museum Director.*

## **We can't do it without You!**

by Crystal Werger

The other day I was reflecting on the time I've been at the Dawson County Historical Museum. It's been four years already. A very busy four years! I don't think I really knew what to expect when I started, though I did have a lot of grand plans. Some things have not worked out the way I wanted them to, and some things have worked out way better than I could have imagined! But the one thing I keep coming back to is the amount of support I've received from so many people!

We have so many friends that support us either through membership and monetary donations or giving of their time. We had a great turnout to help with military inventory. There are guys who come in to move heavy cases. People buy us items that we can use at the museum even before we know we need them. Other people join the Historical Society Board of Directors. Some volunteer their time learning to inventory the museum's collection on the computer. One guy made us feel safer by gifting us fire extinguishers, and he's on call anytime we have a security issue. I want to thank people that give of their time to make our yard look so nice, who clean our bathrooms before a big event, who stuff envelopes, who help us move boxes, and who set up and serve events. And a special shout out to those who encourage and motivate us by regularly coming to drink coffee with us!

Whatever they do and however they do it, I want to thank EVERYONE who plays a part in helping this museum THRIVE! To all of you, and you know who you are, I want to tell you thank you from the bottom of my heart! We would not be where we are today without you. And life at the Dawson County Museum would not have been as fun! I look forward to the next four years!





## Little Black Dresses

Every time I walk into the art gallery right now I'm thinking about Audrey Hepburn and humming the tune "Paint it Black" by the Rolling Stones. There are so many black dresses a person could get seriously depressed! But all of us ladies at the museum are absolutely **LOVING IT!** I got a taste of what this exhibit would be like last year when Cheri was going through box after box of beautiful old clothing. We had so many black items that she started putting them aside thinking we may have enough for a "black dress exhibit".

So, last week our volunteer, Mary White, and Staff Assistant, Carol Nelson, got back into those boxes and hung up all the black dresses we have in our

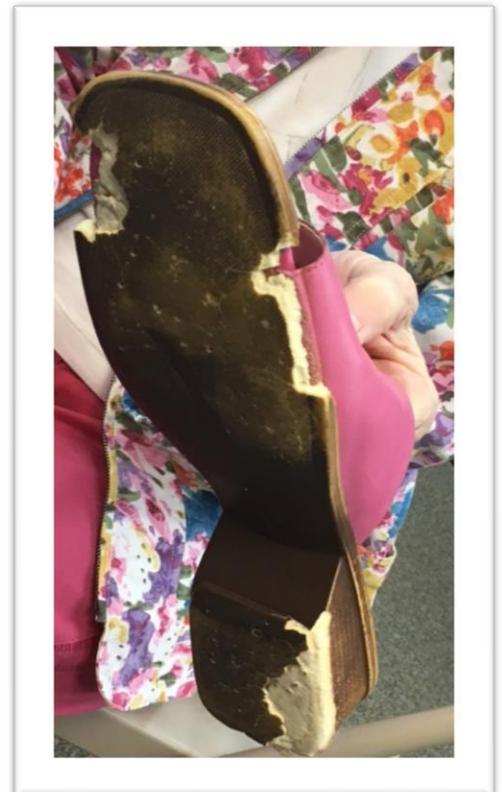
collection. It was so hard to stay out of their way! I wanted to take pictures and try on everything! I was like a little girl going through Grandma's trunk in the attic. It's going to be a great exhibit! Definitely one you won't want to miss (I know I say that about all of them).

And don't forget about the "**Little Black Dress**" **Ladies Tea** the Museum is hosting on Saturday, September 8, at 1:30 PM. We tried to make it Husker Football friendly for those ladies that want to come to the Tea but also want to watch the game. I hope it works out for everyone to enjoy both! Dig out your favorite black dress, or black gloves, or even your little black purse and join us at the Dawson County Historical Museum for an afternoon of black tea and black fashion.

## The 12 Dancing Princesses

Remember the story of the Dancing Princesses? There may not be 12 of us at the Museum but after a day of moving boxes, sorting through collections, and wandering through our archives we sometimes feel we've danced all night and our shoes are proof of that! Poor Carol left with less than a shoe after a recent day at the museum. With all the walking she does in a day I'm surprised it hasn't happened before. We couldn't help but laugh every time we found another chunk of her shoe on the floor. It was like finding bread crumbs!

We've learned to dress the part when we're working at the Dawson County Museum! As much as I'd love to wear the corsets and long dresses with heeled boots, I'm afraid I'd never make it through a day! The corset wouldn't last an hour! My normal museum attire is jeans, comfortable shoes (a **MUST!**) and a nice shirt (if possible). We work hard at making this museum beautiful and fun for our guests, so if that means our shoes fall apart and we wear jeans more than we wear skirts then so be it!



## **It's Here! Just \$20!** **Plum Creek to Lexington 1866-1939**

We've been waiting for this comeback for a long time and now the wait is finally over! This DCHS publication has been reprinted and restocked on our Gift Shop shelves.

This is a great reference if you're looking for anything that has to do with the history of Lexington before 1939. If it's not in the book, it probably didn't happen! This book is a great addition to your library and one you'll certainly need when doing any kind of research on the development of Plum Creek/Lexington.

The book contains many pictures from Dawson County Historical Society's collection. This new printing has a wonderful index to help you find what you need. We use this book often at the museum and highly recommend it!

## **THE DINING ROOM** **in OUR HOUSE**

I am so excited about this room for so many different reasons. To the naked eye it might not look very exciting but let me tell you why the girls at the museum can't stop talking about it...

The Mainstreet and Our House exhibits in our main gallery have been an ongoing process for over 4 years. As the new addition was built, old exhibits were taken apart, packed into boxes, and put into storage. We are still locating and unpacking those boxes to put like things together. When Cheri started volunteering in early 2014, she and Terri Wylie started working on the "house". Since I've been here we've added items little by little to the business side, as well as walls, trim, and a front porch & back porch to the house.

The part of the process that takes so much time & energy is that every item in our collection needs to be documented in our Past Perfect software. In order to be more efficient, I've decided to document each item as it is placed. When we find discrepancies, that documentation may involve detective work.

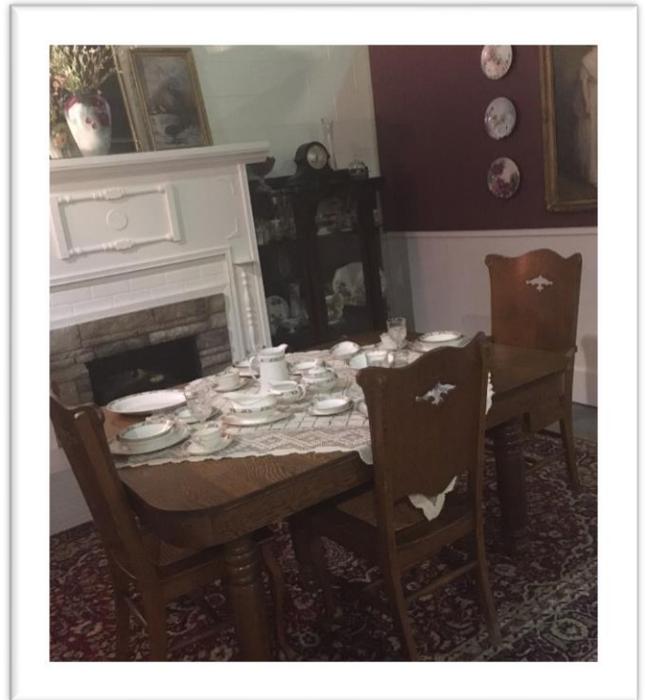
After 3 full weeks concentrating only on this room---painting (thank you Cheri), locating boxes, unpacking (thank you Carol and Chris), installing a chair rail and trim (thank you John), solving mysteries, entering items into Past Perfect, and arranging the exhibit (thank you Cheri)--the dining room with all its china is finally complete! And it looks gorgeous!



**PLUM CREEK TO LEXINGTON**  
1866 - 1939  
Researched and edited by Russ Czaplewski



Published by  
The Dawson County Historical Society



# RIFLE RAFFLE & TRIVIA NIGHT

We're doing a couple different fundraisers this fall. If you're a gun collector or avid hunter, you might be interested in our Rifle Raffle that's going on right now. Board Members are selling tickets for \$10 each or 3 for \$20. The rifle is a 1958 Collector's Edition 30-30 Winchester model 94. The rifle is on display and you can also buy tickets at the Dawson County Museum. We will draw for the winner at The Dawson County Trivia Night Championship on November 16.



If you're even a tad bit competitive and know just enough about a lot of things to be dangerous, then you need to come to Trivia Night--Friday, November 16 at 7:30 PM. We'll have food and drinks, fun competition, drawings and raffles, and a whole lotta laughs! Watch for more information as the date gets closer. To sign up now, contact the museum (308-324-5340) and we'll reserve your spot.

## THE BENCH THAT'S A STEP?

One evening while several board members and I were working on an exhibit in the Ag Hall one of them came across a sign hanging on the wall near the entrance that said, "The Bench that's a Step". We all looked around but couldn't find a bench or a step.

*The sign read, The Bench on the concrete slab south of the Agricultural Exhibit Building was originally one of the steps of the first Courthouse in Dawson County. You will notice the edge of the step is worn from the passage of many feet. The Courthouse was built in 1874-75 and replaced by the current structure in 1913. Donor: Glen Mullin.*

Hmmm...we all looked at each other and assumed the worst. If the bench had been outside the building it may be long gone after all the construction that went on in this spot more than 10 years ago. We talked about it for a while wondering if we'd seen it around the museum, but no one was able to clearly say if they had or not. It saddened me that it might be gone but we moved on with our tasks and my mind quickly went to other matters.

An evening or two later Cheri messaged me to look next to the Reed Schoolhouse as I came to work in the morning. I hate it when people say such ominous things, so I was a little worried about what I might find, but I did as I was told and the next morning I found...

I guess you'll just have to come to the museum to find out. 😊