

DAWSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

# BANNER

Vol.40 No.6

*A Fresh Look at Our History*

DECEMBER 2018



*Merry Christmas!*



*from Daniel Freeman and Emmett McCabe*

*And all the rest of us here at our museum!*

President Ulysses S. Grant declared Christmas a national holiday in 1870,  
but it was celebrated throughout the world long before that.

Now more than 160 countries celebrate Christmas in some manner.

Traditions vary from country to country. Most of our familiar customs originated in Europe.

What is common all over the world is that Christmas is a time for people to come together.

We wish you a blessed time together with your family and the ones you love! Merry Christmas!

If you have family visiting and you want to show them the museum,  
we will be open 10-4 Wednesday through Saturday both Christmas week & New Year's week.

We love to see adults take time to help their little ones discover the past.

We have two sizes of wheelchairs available to anyone who needs them to walk our halls.

Also remember, we are a good resource to settle the "discussion" that occurred  
when two different memories collided during dinner!



Dawson County Museum lost two good friends  
in the past few weeks.

Jerry Lashley served faithfully  
on our Board of Directors for over 20 years.

Jackie Pesek supported and volunteered at the  
museum for the past two years.

We will miss them both  
and send our condolences to both families.



# LOG CABIN LORE

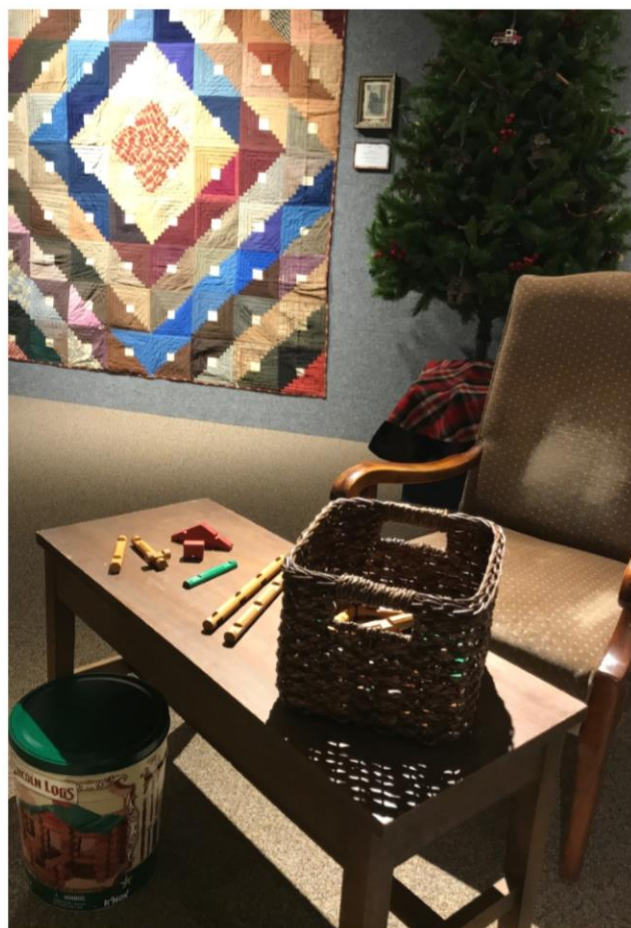
Log Cabins are the topic of our December/January Art Gallery Exhibit. It's a cozy display that makes you want to just sit and bask in the warmth.

We have 10 log cabin quilts on the walls. Most of the ones belonging to the museum date back to 1890. The newest one was pieced by Doll Nielsen this year. Doll has loaned us several of her quilts for this show. It's fascinating to see how the same basic blocks can be arranged to make such diverse designs.

The exhibit features our actual log cabin. Built of cottonwood logs on a Nebraska homestead in 1864, the cabin was dismantled and reconstructed on our campus in 1976. If it's warm enough you can go out and tour it, or you can look at our scrapbook for its story.

There's also a spot to build a log cabin – out of Lincoln Logs. Invented in 1916, Lincoln Logs have been a part of childhood for generations. We give you a chance to sit and play for a while. It could be a good way to teach your grandchild how the pioneers notched logs and interlocked walls.

The show includes 4 Christmas trees and a crackling fireplace to ward off the chill. Come in and sit a spell. Don't miss this exhibit! It will be in our Art Gallery through January.







# *Dawson County Championship* **Trivia Night**



Team Smelly Cat  
 won the trophy.

Watch for information  
 about the 2019 Trivia Night!





# CHRISTMAS CREATIVITY

by Crystal Werger



This is a special time of year for me. I have so many wonderful memories of Christmas from my childhood, and most of them revolve around the Christmas tree. I can't imagine Christmas without one! Even into my adulthood decorating the Christmas tree with my family was very important and a special time for me and my kids. This is part of the reason the Dawson County Historical Museum has a Promenade of Christmas Trees. We want people to come and share in the joy of decorating a tree while helping us make the museum beautiful and festive at Christmastime.

It takes a lot of work to get out 20+ Christmas trees and set them up around the museum, but it's well worth the time and energy once they're all decorated. Each business, organization, or individual that decorates a tree does it in their own special way. We don't just have 20 decorated trees around the museum, instead we have 20 creatively trimmed trees that tell a story about the person or group who decorated them. As you walk around the museum this Holiday season be sure to notice how each tree is decorated. Most decorators put thought and energy into making the tree uniquely theirs. Some of the trees will make you smile, others may make you laugh. I enjoy the extra minutes it takes every morning and evening to have the trees lit up during the day.





You really need to come in and enjoy the full trees! I appreciate all the people who helped make the museum such a beautiful place to visit this Christmas season! And I'm also thankful for the people who came in to have fun and decorate a Christmas Hat this year!

This is the first time we've had a Christmas Hat Trimming Party and it has gone over really well! We wanted to do something fun and have a small fundraiser while we were at it.

We originally intended for it to be a day event. But due to bad weather we changed things up a bit and let ladies decorate hats at December's Coffee with Carol, and at the museum's Christmas Open House on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Everyone had such fun that we decided to leave it open through Saturday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>. People had the choice of taking their hats home with them or leaving them at the museum to be voted on. It's simple to vote, all you have to do is put money in the small jar sitting next to your favorite hat (they're on display at the museum in front of the research room). The hat with the most money in its jar after December 29<sup>th</sup>, is the winner of the best Christmas Hat!



It's been a fun holiday season at the Dawson County Historical Museum and I am grateful to all those who helped make it that way!

Merry Christmas!

## Congratulations to Our Worker Bees!

By the end of December Jim & Jill with Family Search will have made digital images of 100,000 documents from the Dawson County Historical Society archives.

[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

## Christmas Tree Promenade

*Thanks to:*

Doll Nielsen  
LHS Interact Club  
Lexington Good News Club  
Lex Area Chamber of Commerce  
Grand Generation Center  
Golden Rod Car Club  
Plum Creek Quilters Guild  
PEO Chapter AN  
Dawson County Children's Museum  
Barb Batie  
Town & Country Garden Club  
Madelines Café & Bakery  
DAR Bonneville Chapter  
Dawson Public Power  
Lexington Regional Health Center  
DCHS Museum Staff



For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.



## THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO THE MUSEUM.

## Now we can update the lighting in our Main Gallery!