



DAWSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

BANNER

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A Fresh Look at Our History

JANUARY 2021

LOOKING FORWARD

January is a bittersweet month for us at the Dawson County History Museum. The Christmas trees that make the museum so beautiful are coming down and the festiveness of the holidays is over. But we're excited for the new year and what it's going to bring.

We are currently showing a really cool exhibit in the Art Gallery and are planning to start our President Classes again on January 17. Later in February we will be hosting our Annual Meeting featuring a program about the history of KRVN. We will be concentrating work on several room exhibits on Mainstreet. We continue the work of cataloging the museum's collections in our computer program.

While the Coronavirus still runs rampant, we continue to take the necessary precautions and remain flexible with our planning. After evaluating the last year, we're pretty good at thinking outside the box and going with the flow, no matter how strange it may seem to us. Our mission as an historical institution first and foremost is to promote a greater understanding of the history of Dawson County. Since history happens every day we are working hard to save and preserve it as it happens. As an historian, I worry about if I'm documenting daily life well enough or if I should be doing more.

Someday people will be looking to us to provide them with the historical information about the Coronavirus that hit Dawson County in 2020 and how it affected our community. My goal is that the Dawson County Historical Society will have a good collection of newspaper articles, Nebraska Governor media releases, and personal accounts of what happened during the COVID pandemic. In 50 or 100 years, the museum will probably even have a special exhibit. Can you picture that one? See why it's important to get accurate documentation?

Even though we're looking at what's next for the Dawson County Museum we're also always looking back. Sometimes it is a tough thing for me to maintain my forward vision because it's so easy to get stuck in the past, but forward we must go. A healthy balance is always good. So join us this year as we step out of 2020 and into 2021 and all the fun and exciting things we'll be doing at the museum to celebrate Dawson County history!

CRYSTAL WERGER, DIRECTOR DCHS MUSEUM

DCHS CHRISTMAS

STORYBOOK TREES & LIGHTS AT NIGHT

--Crystal Werger

A Christmas Story was the theme for Christmas 2020 at the Dawson County History Museum. We had 34 decorated Christmas trees portraying stories from books displayed with the trees. We were a little worried about participation with the crazy year we've had, but we had great help!

STORIES TOLD BY OUR STORYBOOK TREES

The Christmas Tree that Loved Trains
T'was the Night Before Christmas
Santa's Christmas with a Mask
Christmas at the White House
The Legend of the Poinsettia
A Charlie Brown Christmas
The Gifts of the Animals
A Very Mator Christmas
Christmas from Heaven
The Gingerbread Boy
The Christmas Shoes
Little Drummer Boy
Santa's Underwear
The Polar Express
The Littlest Angel
The Nutcracker
Nibbles



The Year of the Perfect Christmas Tree
Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
How the Grinch Stole Christmas
A Memory of Christmas Tea
Christmas in the Big Woods
The Visit of the Wise Men
A Cup of Christmas Tea
Apple Tree Christmas
The Gingerbread Man
Jolly Old Santa Claus
The Christmas Story
Too Many Tamales
Big Red Christmas
A Christmas Carol
Christmas Truce
Sticky Stanley
The Mitten

THANKS FOR DECORATING A STORYBOOK TREE

Presbyterian Church Children
Alpha Delta Kappa
Five Star Flooring
Dorothy Bremer
Lexington Alumni Association
Bonnevill Chapter D.A.R.
Town & Country Garden Club
Dawson Public Power
Dawson County History Museum Staff & Volunteers

Dawson County Children's Museum
Madeline's Café & Bakery
Lexington Parks & Rec
Vicki Davis
Goldenrod Car Club
Brell Realty & Auction
Sons of American Revolution
The Recipe Club

Normally, we have a Christmas Open House at the museum a week before Christmas to celebrate and show off all our beautiful trees, but this year due to COVID and its restrictions, we were unable to invite that many people to the museum all at one time. It's been a pretty unEVENTful year for the Dawson County History Museum and not having a special Christmas event made me sad, so Cheri and I put our heads together and came up with something new.

Christmas at Night was actually something we had talked about in previous years, but Decembers are always so busy! COVID and cancelations made us rethink the concept. Christmas lights are always best seen in the dark, so why not turn down the lights in the museum and open our doors during the evening hours? The five nights we were open between 6:00 and 9:00 brought in a steady, but not crowded, stream of visitors. I can honestly say I was astounded by the turnout! People loved it!

I want to say thank you very much to all the people who helped us make the museum so beautiful and for taking time out of their schedules to help us! I also want to thank everyone who came to the museum to try something a little different. I am so thankful for all the support I received from my Board of Directors and staff. It was a wonderful Christmas at the museum this year and we wish you all a safe and happy New Year!

Can you guess which stories these were?



*If you haven't been into our museum since COVID hit,
or if you came through in half-light to experience the Christmas trees,
you need to come see the exhibits we developed during the slowdown.*

Baubles, Bangles & BEADS

Metallic & Beaded Bags, Button Collections, Jewelry, Clothing with Baubles, Bangles or Beads



PLECTRON

A collection of equipment and products
from the Overton-based company

Portraits of the Founders
Keith Wycoff and Arlen Collins

History & Timeline
Staff & Workplace Photos



KIDS

Clothing, Shoes, Hats, Toys, Furniture

Photos of lots of cute kids!

US PRESIDENTS COLLECTION



Campaign Buttons, PEZ Dispensers, Sets of Figurines
Models of Homes, Vehicles and Landmarks, Photos

Collected by David Collins



COMING SOON... COMING SOON... COMING SOON

President Classes in 2021 ---- **Underappreciated Presidents**

Sundays, 2:00pm January 17th - February 21st



Now that the presidential election season is mercifully over, we want to invite you learn a little more about some of the presidents that served our nation, but maybe didn't get as much acknowledgment as they deserve.

Join us starting January 17 at 2:00 in the main gallery for *Underappreciated Presidents*. Classes will be taught by former government teacher and political science junkie, Scott Foster. Which US Presidents will we study? Come and find out!

The Dawson County Historical Society Museum is a place where the public can explore and learn about the past. With the unique history of Dawson County at our core, the DCHS seeks to promote a greater understanding of local and regional history and preserve it for future generations to learn and enjoy.

DAWSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2021

DCHS Bylaws state that there will be an annual meeting of the membership during the month of February for the purpose of electing directors of the Board and the transaction of any business that may come before the membership.

Voting rights are awarded to each member current on membership dues. This year there will be a brief business meeting in conjunction with a program about KRVN.

Watch for details on our social media, newspapers and KRVN.



Photo Credit: Daniel Sauer Dec2018