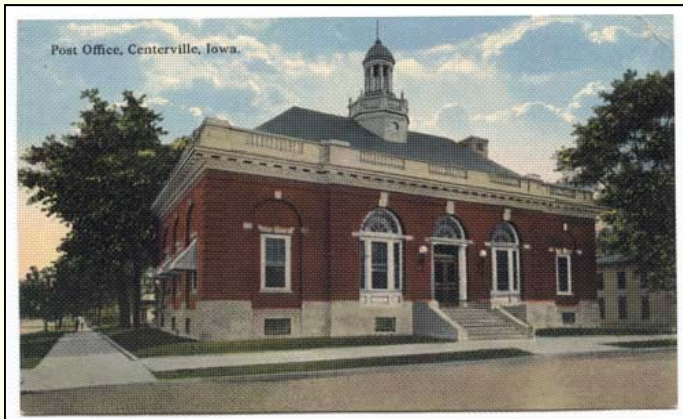


APPANOOSE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPRING NEWSLETTER



The Southern Iowa Railway to be presented at Annual Meeting

Were you aware that Appanoose County was home to an electric railway system? On April 28, the Appanoose County Historical Society will revisit electric railway history during their annual meeting at 7:00 pm at the Centerville City Hall. After a brief business meeting and election of officers, the keynote speaker will be R. Wesley Bender, historian from the Midwest Electric Railway Association (MERA). Wesley will talk about the Southern Iowa Railway, which was located in Appanoose County. Railways were not usually located in less populated areas like Appanoose County, so it was a testament to the community leaders who made it come into being.

Wes has shared a bit of his biography with us: "Born in St. Louis and who's mother never drove, I was introduced to public transit early. Streetcars ran everywhere and I was mesmerized during my early years by these vehicles. Throughout my childhood I traveled by train back to the eastern seaboard to visit extended family. I was treated by riding public transit (streetcars) in many cities during those formative years and I now have a lifelong interest in electric railways."



*R. Wesley Bender, Historian
Midwest Electric Railway Association (MERA)*

I have been associated with the Midwest Old Threshers and the Trolley Line there since 1982. I have done extensive research on the fleet of cars at the MERA and the different Iowa electric railways that served this state. The MERA owes its existence to the employees there at the Southern Iowa Railroad and the rail fans that put the first Iowa electric railway museum together in Centerville back in 1954. Through many different circumstances the Trolley Line in Mt. Pleasant is continuing that enthusiasm first started in Appanoose County.

To my credit I have been awarded the Thresherman Lifetime Achievement Award, written magazine and newspaper articles and currently have a two electric railway projects that I hope can be printed soon. I have an extensive Electrical Railway Library and Film collection for research purposes.

My professional life was with the USMC and the Iowa Army National Guard where I worked full-time as a Technician, retiring in 2006. I live in Springville, Iowa, with my wife Sandy. I am honored to be invited to speak at the Appanoose County Historical Society."

Please join us on April 28 at 7:00 pm to learn about this fascinating chapter in



Trolley crossing the Country Club grounds

SOUTHERN IOWA RAILWAY

Monday, April 28 - 7:00 pm

At the Annual Meeting of the
Appanoose County Historical Society

*Learn about Appanoose County's
unlikely electric railway system in
the early 1900's.*

at Centerville City Hall

Admission is FREE
but donations are appreciated



Keynote Speaker - Wesley Bender, Midwest Electric Railway

Curators Corner

Time to spring into spring at the museum! The new Election Year Exhibit is starting to take shape. It features a three-stall voting booth, a ballot box from Franklin Township, plus several yard signs, buttons and photos. Also, it will feature the story of the most contentious election in Appanoose County History, held in 1925, when the KKK attempted to take over all of the city offices. The Lincoln League was formed to stand up to the opposition, and won, but by a narrow margin. Stop by and read about it!

We are still working on collecting stories and artifacts from the Continental Flight 11 crash of 1962. We have conducted an oral history event, interviewing Leo Craver, the first to report the crash; Bob Curtis, who was on the police force and spent a great deal of time at the scene, and Gary Barrickman, who was on the Sheriff's Posse, who helped at the scene. Bob Curtis has also donated two arm

rests and a piece of sheet metal from the fuselage of the downed airplane for the exhibit. We are still looking for still photos of the crash scene, or pieces from the crash site. If you have anything to share, please call the museum at (641) 856-6040.

With help from a Community Fund Grant, we have received two new display units that will allow us to showcase two special collections. One unit will display our large collection of movie lobby cards and the other will showcase our large collection of Appanoose County postcards and photographs. These should be taking shape very soon!

Over the past few months, we have collected several new artifacts, including a large collection of cameras from Burrell Browns, a



GAR encampment medal from Abie Adams, several Cincinnati yearbooks from Randy Dwight, an old gas city street lamp from Leo Craver, a early Polaroid camera from Nelma Fuller, some large insulators from Kevin Kilpatrick, an APCO Block Coal Co sign from Leo Crow, a framed portrait of Governor Drake and a Bellair Rangers roll from Brad & Dewey McConville, some C.C. Stephenson prescription ephemera from Barb Halupnick, a large mine fan from Jay Phillips, and an advertising piece from the Majestic Theater from John & Marcia Holeman. Also, we have received a horse drawn road grader from Denise and Shaun Cassidy, in honor of Donald Eddy and Leroy Cassidy that is on display at the old jail on North Main.

We are continuing to collect pieces that cumulatively tell the story of Appanoose County, so if you would like to donate an artifact, please bring it by the museum!

2007 Haunted History Tour & Homecoming & The Wonderful Thing!

Fall was a busy season for the Historical Society! We held our best Haunted History Tour ever! Turnout was so large that we conducted two tours to keep the group size smaller. The night was fabulous and eerie with a full moon shining down on the cemetery. A couple of weeks later, we held our first annual Homecoming Open House, which was a resounding success! Many visitors to the area came to the museum while they were in town, and several more came to honor Bill Heusinkveld, for his contributions to local history with his many books. We were also thrilled to meet the family of Skylar



Skylar Jones family

Jones, whose photo is featured in the museum, as well as in our 2007 historical calendar. He drove the Pure Ice Co. truck and his family had never seen the photo before! Our final event for the fall was the Grand Premier of the silent movie, "The Wonderful Thing", starring Norma Talmadge. The outdoor scenes from the movie were filmed in Centerville and rural Plano, Iowa in 1921.

There were two showings of the film and everyone enjoyed the rare opportunity to see a silent movie. Much of the film was shot on a stage in Hollywood, and the audience patiently awaited the moment when, at last, the subtitle popped up "Centerville, Iowa, USA", and the audience burst into cheers and applause! The Appanoose County Courthouse and the depot on the levee were shown, as well as the Harbold Farm in Plano. We were delighted that the descendants of the Harbold family had traveled to Centerville in order to see the movie! We plan on showing the film sometime each year, so watch for it!

Its time to pay your annual membership dues!

Your dues and contributions are important to the continued operation and new exhibit activity at the Appanoose County Historical & Coal Mining Museum.

Instead of a customary membership, why not try our new "Patrons of our Heritage" Program ! (see next page)

Membership Form

We would like to invite you to join the Appanoose County Historical Society! Annual dues for regular members are \$10.00 each or \$18.00 per couple. Join now and your membership will allow you admission to the museum through the 2008 season!

Membership Renewals	\$10.00 each or \$18.00 couple....	\$ _____
Donations to Historical Society		\$ _____
Purchase "Towns of Appanoose County" book	\$25.00.....	\$ _____
Purchase "Cemeteries of Appanoose County" book	\$25.00	\$ _____
Purchase "Courthouse Centennial" book	\$10.00	\$ _____
Total		\$ _____

Please make checks payable to **Appanoose County Historical Society.**
Detach this form and mail to: **Appanoose County Historical & Coal Mining Museum**
100 West Maple
Centerville, IA 52544

Dues are also payable electronically via our website using PayPal. Please make any changes to your address on the reverse side of this form and we will change our records as noted. Please include postage in the amount of \$3.00 and indicate if you need any of the books mailed to you.

The Appanoose County Historical Society would like to introduce our new annual sponsorship program

“Patrons of Our Heritage”

This program is an effort to raise much needed funds to continue our mission, which is:
To educate by collecting, preserving, exploring, displaying and developing programs to engage the Appanoose County communities to celebrate and protect our heritage.

The Appanoose County Historical Society has been busy creating many local history awareness projects like the annual Haunted History Tour, the “Snapshot of the Past” and “Appanoose Artifacts” features in the Daily Iowegian, as well as the Historical Collectible Calendars, the Heritage Hall of Fame in the Weber Realty window,. And new this year, we will begin conducting oral histories with long-time residents in an effort to collect the stories of Appanoose County’s past. We’ve been creating new exhibits and displays and providing educational programs to the community. Soon, we will begin repairs and renovation at the Old Jail & Sheriff’s

Residence. And to top it all off, this year we’ve expanded our hours to accommodate more visitor’s schedules!

This increased activity incurs additional expenses, and we believe that the community appreciates the effort! To show your support, please take part in our new sponsorship program!

The levels of participation are as follows:

- **Coal Miner’s Club** - \$50-\$99
- **Chaldea League** - \$100-\$500
- **Appanoose Chieftain’s Circle** - \$500-\$999
- **Governor Drake’s Council** - \$1,000 or more

With your sponsorship, you will receive a special ‘Patrons of Our Heritage’ pass, which is a special membership card that will allow full season admission to the museum, as well as admission to any of our special events, like the Haunted History Tour, plus recognition will placed in our newsletters and website, www.appanoosehistory.org for the following year. Please fill out the form below and do your part to help us in our efforts to preserve Appanoose County’s rich heritage!

Please accept my sponsorship of \$_____to enroll me in the “Patron’s of Our Heritage” program.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

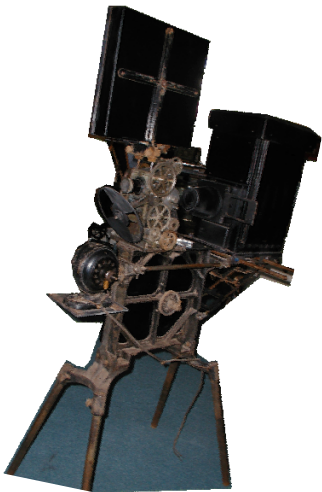
_____ I would like to help staff the museum sometime – call me!

_____ I would like to participate in an oral history discussion about

Mail your check and this form to: Appanoose County Historical Society
100 West Maple
Centerville, IA 52544



Heritage Hall of Fame in
Weber Real Estate Window



Appanoose Artifacts
Daily Iowegian

Appanoose County Historical Society
100 West Maple
Centerville, IA 52544

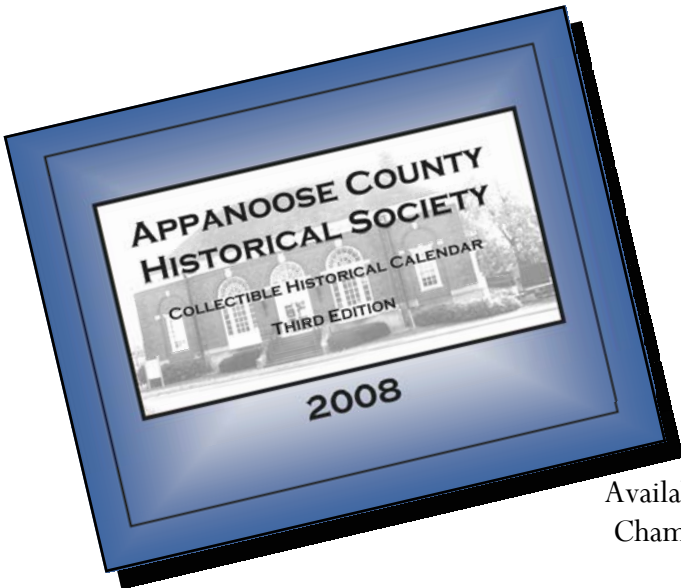
Visit us on the web at
www.appanoosehistory.org

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CENTERVILLE, IOWA
PERMIT NO. 78

NEW MUSEUM HOURS

October 1 - May 31
Mon - Fri 1:00 - 5:00

June 1 - September 31
Mon - Fri 1:00 - 5:00
Sat: 10:00 - 2:00



2008 Historical Collectible Calendars

Still Available!

Only \$10

12 Great historical Appanoose County Photos
Hundreds of Historic Facts from exactly 100 years ago!

Available at the Appanoose County Historical & Coal Mining Museum, the Chamber of Commerce, The Shoppes at Bradley Hall, The Columns, and the Appanoose County Records Office.

We also still have a few copies of 2006 and 2007 Historic Calendars available for only \$5!

Come to the annual meeting and buy your copy! We will also have copies of Bill Heusinkveld’s historical books for sale at the annual meeting, too!

Monday, April 28 at 7:00 pm at Centerville City Hall

Election of 2007 Officers



Members,

Please be in attendance at the Annual Meeting so you may review the changes to the by-laws that are being instituted and to participate in the 2008 Election of Officers.

Running for office this term are:

- President** - Dave Walljasper
- Vice-President** - Greg Fenton
- Secretary** - Judy Lamb
- Treasurer** - Dave Stuart

Board Members up for election or re-election:

- Connie Stater
- Lisa Eddy
- Patty Timmens
- Pete Lind
- Dana Moritz
- Bill Vanderlinden

Please remember the Appanoose County Historical Society in your will so we may continue to preserve our County’s rich heritage for years to come.