



Volume XI Issue 4

Spring 2007

Washington County
Historical Association
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Lecture Series Resumes

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Inside this issue:

Museum's Message Hits the Road	2
Volunteer Appreciation Day	2
Thank You	2
Hot Dogs at the Town Hall	3
Our Wish List	3
Nebraska History in the Spring	3

The Washington County Museum and Too Far North are proud to bring you the second Washington County Historical Association Talks (WCHAT) on Friday, April 13, at 7:30 PM. The lectures will be held at Too Far North which is located at 111 North 14th Street in Fort Calhoun.

The topic for this Springs lecture event focuses on frontier fortresses and Indian/White relations along the overland trail. John Slader, superintendent of Fort Atkinson, will be our first speaker. John's presentation titled, "Fort Atkinson 101" provides information about how influential Fort Atkinson was to the area during its existence, and how its short life influenced future government policy on such

establishments.

Our second speaker will be Dr. Michael Tate from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Dr. Tate teaches frontier history at UNO, and has recently published a book on the overland trail experience called, *Indians and Emigrants: Encounters on the Overland Trails*. Dr. Tate's presentation titled, "From Cooperation to Conflict: Indian and Emigrant Relations on the Overland Trails," will explain the complex relationships between American Indians and settlers who followed the Platte River in search of land and wealth in the west.

This series not only promotes our rich, local history, but also provides the chance to experi-

ence some of Nebraska's finest wines and brews. Sandy Kucera, owner of Too Far North, has personally visited many of these places and brought with her some of the more unique flavors the state has to offer. Too Far North also promotes other products made in the state, from hand lotions, to beautifully restored lightening rods.

With the success of our first WCHAT, we would ask people to arrive early because seating is limited. There is no admission for the lectures! So come, enjoy stimulating conversation, and learn about these two aspects of Nebraska's enchanting history!

Membership Update

The following have become members of the Washington County Historical Association since January of 2007:
-Ms. Arlene Stork
-Ms. Mary Sully
-Country Tire INC.

And one new *Trailblazer*:
-Washington County Bank

Thank you all for your generous contributions to the Association. It is never too late to join. If you are interested, or have any questions, please call

the museum at 468-5740, or you can e-mail at info@newwashcohist.org.

Your support means so much to not only the Association, but the future of the county. Thank you to everyone who has given in the past.

Museum's Message Hits the Road

Over the next three months, I will be out on the highways of Washington County to convey a simple message to the people in this area. That message is simple, but the solution is far more complex.

That simple message is "we are the county museum, not just Fort Calhoun's!" While we are happy to be located in a town with so much history, there is so much more important history in this county. The solution to diffusing any myth is to present the facts. This is why I want to issue a challenge to all people in the

county, rather you have an affinity for history, or just a passing interest in your local community. The challenge is for you to come to the museum, or catch me on the road, and tell us what you would like to see from your Historical Association.

It is quite easy to get lost in the confusion of every day life. Today there are so many things to do that when the weekend comes, most of us just want to sit and rest instead of moving about. That is why this challenge is so very important. The museum and its history rely on community sup-

port. Without you, we can and will not be able to continue our mission to preserve Washington County's history.

While specific times are still not prepared, I will be visiting the towns of Herman, Kennard, Washington, Blair, Arlington, and Fort Calhoun. If your town is not on this list and you would like it to be, please contact me so we can set up a time and place to meet. I look forward to seeing and speaking with as many of you as possible. Stop in and see us any time before then!

Volunteer

Appreciation Day!

On Sunday, April 22 at 1:00 PM the Washington County Historical Association will thank it's volunteers for their services this season. The event will be held in the North Gallery at the Washington County Museum. Refreshments will be available while a brief award ceremony to begin the celebration.

Invitations will be sent to volunteers to come and be recognized for their services. Everyone else is welcome to attend and support the most valuable assets of our organization, the volunteers!

Thank You!

The following people have generously donated gifts to the Washington County Historical Association:

Dr. K.C. Bagby– Assorted Medical Books

Nancy Coziah– Circa 1890 handgun and rifle

LaMara Eiche on behalf of Terry Christensen– Photos of Dornacker school

Diane Jensen- pie tin, food box with advertisement, clothes drying rack, antimacassars, magazine

Karen Madsen on behalf of the Washington County Register of Deeds- Ledgers of Public Notaries – 1858-1865, 1869-1874

Wanda Miller- book

Agnes Smith- funeral program

Thank you all so very much for supporting the museum! It is through your efforts that we are able to succeed and fulfill our mission to preserve Washington County's History.

Hot Dogs at the Town Hall

In Fontanelle Nebraska, there lies a small brick building on top of a ridge along the east side of 8th Street. The porch suggests that perhaps this was a small schoolhouse, or even just an older home. What people often fail to realize is this brick building is a nineteenth century town hall constructed for the government affairs of this one time booming township.

During the mid 1850's, Fontanelle challenged Omaha for the territorial capitol of newly established Nebraska Territory. The town also held the states first

and later in the 19th century, erected the Township Hall to conduct government affairs.

Since those early days, the Town Hall is now recognized as one of the many historical treasures in Washington County. Like the Frahm House, the Town Hall is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Washington County Historical Association would like to invite you to

attend a cookout at the Fontanelle Township Hall on Friday, June 3, from 5PM to 7PM. This is a great chance to look at the hall and share in some good food and conversation with those familiar with the area.

The exact address is 10976, 8th Street, in Fontanelle, Nebraska. Since parking is limited, please look

for museum volunteers in front of the hall to assist you in finding a spot.

Cookout at the Fontanelle Town Hall

June 3, from 5PM-7PM
10976 8th Street
Fontanelle, Nebraska

Our Wish List

Here are some of the items the museum needs to use in our new displays:

- 1) 4x6 Filing Cabinet for index cards.
- 2) Artificial fruit (apples, grapes, etc...)
- 3) Fruit baskets

- 4) Pictures or ads from local fruit vendors

As you may be able to tell from our wish list, the display on Orchards in Washington County is in the building stage and set to be completed by the end of June. If you have ideas for other items that might work well in such a display, please bring them to the

museum so we can listen to your idea.

We are still in the process of recording oral histories from county residents. If you or someone you know is interested in participating in this project, please contact Tony by phone or e-mail as listed on back of this newsletter.

Nebraska History in the Spring

-During the Spring of 1724, French explorer Etienne Veniard de Bourgmont held councils with Padouca (Apache) tribes. These tribes were located along the Dismal River in Southwest Nebraska.

-On April 11, 1803, Robert Livingston struck a deal with Charles Maurice de Talleyrand to purchase the area known as Louisiana for approximately \$15 million. The Louisiana Purchase doubled the size

of the United States at an estimated four cents per acre.

-On June 6, 1820, Stephen Long moved into Nebraska to explore the lands possibilities. It is from Long's expedition that the myth of the "Great American Desert" gains popularity.

-On April 16, 1847, Brigham Young and 148 followers leave their quarters in

Nebraska to begin their long trek toward Zion. They arrive on July 24th at the Great Salt Lake.

-The 89th Division arrives in France during June, 1918. Nicknamed the "Fighting Farmers," the division took men from several states. Most of the 8,000 Nebraskans fought in the 355th Infantry or the 314th Ammunition Train.

WASHINGTON COUNTY MUSEUM QUARTERLY

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*All of our newsletters are
online at:*

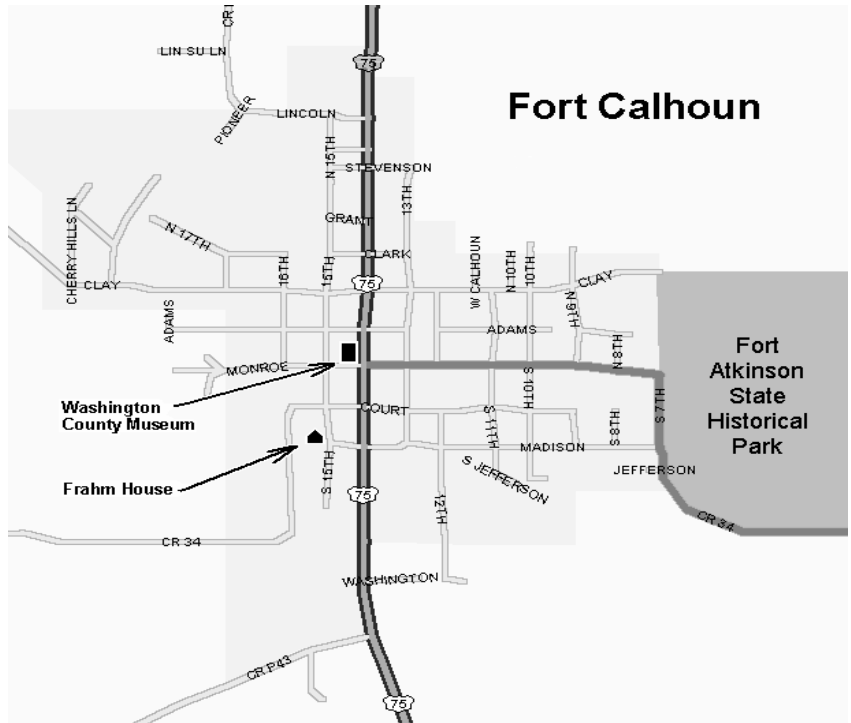


In order to preserve our natural resources for the future, we extend this service. If you wish to assist us, please contact the museum and we will place your name on our electronic e-mail list. Thank you!

**Washington County Historical
Association
P.O. Box 25
Fort Calhoun, NE 68023**

Return Service Requested

Here we are!!! Conveniently located on Highway 75 in Fort Calhoun, Nebraska. Just nine miles south of Blair and 8 miles north of I-680, Fort Calhoun presents two of the many historic sites in Washington County. Please join us at the Museum or the Frahm House located just three blocks from the museum. We look forward to seeing you soon!



Non-Profit
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #14
Fort Calhoun, NE