

Volume XI Issue I

Summer 2006

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Greetings from the New Director

Hello everyone! My name is Tony Pasley, and I have the honor of being your new Executive Director at the Washington County Museum. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little about myself. I was born in Omaha, Nebraska on June 1, 1979. I graduated from Omaha South High School in 1997 and went on to the University of Nebraska. I received my Bachelor of Arts from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 2003 and later by Masters of Arts in 2006. The History of Nebraska is one of my many passions and I hope to share some of that with our readers. Washington County contains some of the most fascinating history in the state since it is

the site of Lewis and Clarks Council with the Otoe Indians, Fort Atkinson, along with other important moments in the past.

The Washington County Historical Association has several sites to experience around the County. Blair is graced with a wealth of history such as Blair High school and various homes and churches in the city. Fontanelle in the west-central part of the County, still has its original Town Hall which is presently under consideration for historic renovations. Fort Calhoun is home to the County museum and the Frahm House, recently listed on the National Historic

Register. It is truly an exciting time to be a part of Washington County History, and I hope you will have the opportunity to join us at one of these various locations.

We hope to continue this quarterly newsletter so that the great people involved in the effort to preserve history can keep up on events around the area. If you have any suggestions for us concerning out newsletter or any other item, please feel free to contact the museum any time. Again, thank you for your continued support and the warm greetings I have received . Hope to see you soon!

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August Board of Directors Elections

This coming August the Board of Directors will lose several of its members. Included are David Genoways, a member since 1996, Doug Cook, member since 1997, Malinda Jepsen, a member since 1998, and Dr. K.

Charles Bagby, a member since 2001. As you may imagine, all of the museum staff and board will miss their presence and leadership at meetings.

It is now imperative that leadership step

in to fill these important positions. For those interested, write in, call, or e-mail and feel free to attend the July 10 meeting at First United Methodist in Blair.

WCHA Planning Countywide Exhibits

Over the summer, Curator Faith Norwood is looking to expand the WCHA's perspective in Washington County. Plans are underway to place temporary exhibits in the towns of Herman and Arlington. These exhibits will provide a brief history of the towns and provide early pictures so citizens may view how the areas have changed over time. To compliment these displays, exhibits will also

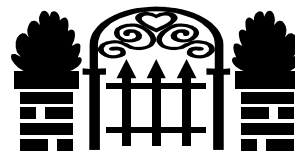
be constructed at the County Museum in Fort Calhoun. The museum exhibits will provide written history, pictures, and some of the various artifacts from the areas.

Over the remainder of the year, plans are under way for museum displays promoting Blair's Danish history. This project is in the early stages of development, but it is hoped to in-

clude pictures, artifacts, and traditional Danish customs and clothing.

If you have any donations, suggestions, or compliments for Ms. Norwood, feel free to contact the museum at (402) 468-5740, or by e-mail:

curator@newwashcohist.org



September 1806: Lewis and Clark: The Voyage Ends

In the early days of September, 200 years ago, Captains Lewis and Clark came back through the extreme eastern edge of Nebraska on their way to St. Louis. While there is a vast amount of information when they passed by the Council Bluff in 1804, their early enthusiasm for the area had faded after two years and four months. By this stretch of their arduous journey, all the men were quite anxious for news concerning their families, world affairs, and who if anyone remembered them.

On the 3rd of September at 4:00 in the afternoon, a group of traders under the leadership of James Arid, met the party as they coasted down river. While they received no news of their immediate families, the national news must have been quite welcome, and rather shocking. US troops massed

along the Louisiana-Texas border waiting to defend against Spanish invasion after the USS President was fired upon near Spain in the fall of 1804. To compound the foreign quarrels, the British warship Leander fired on the US merchant vessel Richard just outside of New York City in 1806. Adding to these troublesome events came the news that Alexander Hamilton had lost his life in a duel with Aaron Burr.

The next day the men came to Floyd's Bluff and stopped to pay their respects to the sergeant lost to appendicitis on their voyage up river. They found Sergeant Floyd's grave had been disturbed by someone in the area, concluding it was

probably Indians searching for useable goods.

September 6th brought more traders up river, and the men traded some of their goods for the first liquor they had since July of

1805. Sometime between then and the 9th of September, the captains passed Council Bluff, but their interest in the area was now overcome with

the desire to return home. Making fine time, they passed the mouth of the Platte River in September 9th, and reached St. Louis with deep satisfaction of their accomplishment on the 23rd of that same month.

Source: Stephen E. Ambrose, *Undaunted Courage*, (New York, Simon & Schuster, 1996) 390-395.

Sometime between then (September 6th) and the 9th of September, the captains passed Council Bluff, but their interest in the area was now overcome with the desire to return home.

Our Wish List for the Summer

There are always items that museums like to obtain. Usually artifacts or other material gifts are those items most often needed. The Washington County Historical Association is asking for something different this summer. It is our mission to preserve history, and that includes the stories and experiences of those people in the County. We ask therefore that you send in requests to give your history to the museum through written or recorded interviews. Simply call us between our normal business hours and set up an appointment. We are often able to travel for the interview, so mention your location and we will set up an appointment.,

These experiences are treasures that many people do not realize until years have passed. It is so very important to us that your experiences are passed on so the next generation can more fully understand the experiences of the past.

We always accept other donations as well. For artifacts, it is important that one conferrers with our Curator, Faith Norwood. She is available every day of the week the museum operates with the exception on Monday. Please call the museum during her hours and we will be happy to have her discuss the possibilities of a donation with you.

Along with artifacts, we are always looking for literature such as books and documents pertaining to Nebraska History. If you have any donations for the Museum, please call and someone will be able to assist you with that possibility.

We are always interested in people looking to volunteer at the museum. We have several projects available at this time which include assistance with the newsletter and transcription of historic journals on to a word processor. If you are interested in volunteering or just want to see the museum for the experience, please join us. You will not be disappointed!

One Hundred Years Ago This Summer: 1906

July 12 - Alfred Dreyfus, a Jewish army officer hastily and wrongly convicted of treason in 1899, is exonerated. He is reinstated in the French Army July 21, ending the "Dreyfus Affair" that exposed anti-Semitism in French society.

August 23 - Unable to control a rebellion in the newly-formed Cuban republic, Pres. Tomas

Estrada Palma requests U.S. intervention.

September 18 - Typhoon with tsunami kills an estimated 10,000 persons in Hong Kong.

September 5 - Brandbury Robin-

son throws the first legal forward pass in an American football game.

September 24 - U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt proclaims Devils Tower the nation's first National Monument.



Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1906>

Omaha Artists Inc. Comes To Washington County

For the month of October, the Washington County Museum wishes to extend a welcome to Omaha Artists Inc. From the first of the month until November 4th, The North Gallery will host several 8x10 pictures from various artists

from Eastern Nebraska. Please visit their website for more information at:

<http://www.omahaartistsinc.com>

You can also view the insert contained in this newsletter to

obtain information about this particular showing. There will be a reception on October 8th from 2-4pm.



WASHINGTON COUNTY MUSEUM QUARTERLY

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Washington County Museum Staff:

Curator: Faith Norwood
Maintenance: Mary Gage
Executive Director: Tony Pasley

All of our newsletters will soon be online at:

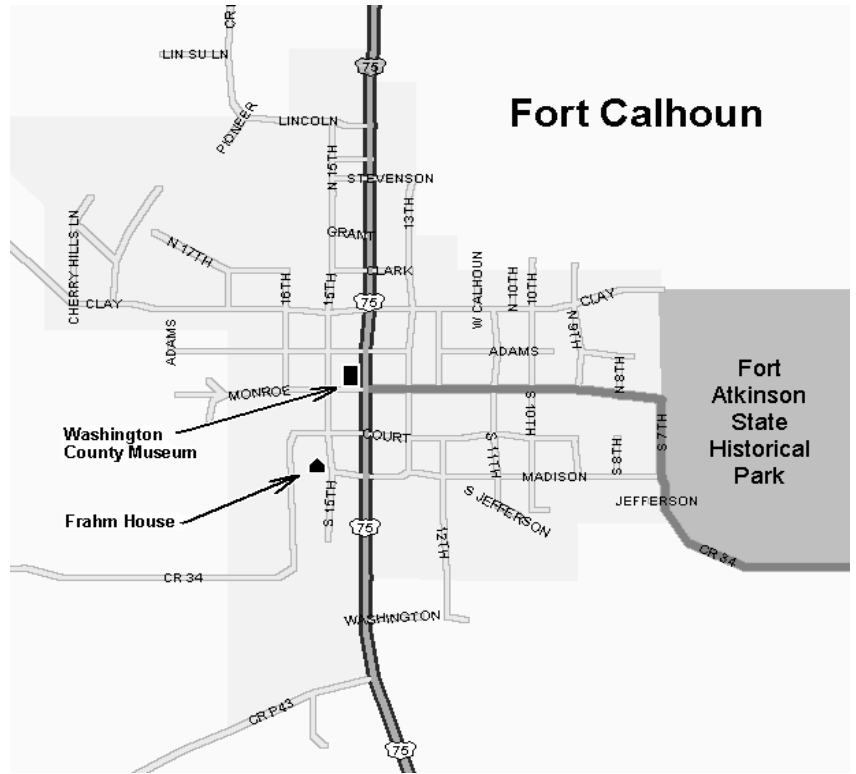


In order to preserve our natural resources for the future, we extend this service. If you wish to assist us, please contact the museum and we will place your name on our electronic e-mail list. Thank you!

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

Return Service Requested

Here we are!!! Please stop in and see us. We are conveniently located on Highway 75 in Fort Calhoun, Nebraska. Just nine miles south of Blair, and north of Omaha, Fort Calhoun presents three of the historic sites in Washington County. Rather you come to the Museum, Fort Atkinson, or the Frahm House, we would be delighted to see you!



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