

ENLIGHTENER

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The Washington County Historical Association Board of Directors:

- Chairperson**
Diane Jensen
- Vice Chair**
Dawn Nielsen
- Secretary**
Marilyn Abariotes
- Treasurer**
Diane Eilers
- Directors:**
Nancy Cady
Kathy Jensen
Tom Kranda
Scott Lashier
Judy Rohwer
Neale Shaner
Stu Sprick
Charlott Ware

The Washington County Museum Staff:

- Executive Director**
Anthony Pasley
- Curator**
Faith Norwood
- Maintenance**
Mary Gage

TOWN HALL EVENT A SUCCESS!

On June 3, the Fontanelle Township Hall came to life as citizens from all over the county enjoyed a perfect day. The event not only exhibited the great history of the hall, but also provided a re-enactment, and free hot dogs!

The event truly showed how much the citizens of Fontanelle care about their history. Long time residents such as Polly Lallman not only participated in the event, but personally distributed flyers around the community announcing the time, and promoting the Historical Association in general. Without the assistance of the Fontanelle populous, this event would not have been so grand, and the Association is ever so grateful!

The living history segment of the event was provided by County Planner Doug Cook. Cook spent extensive time studying his role as the architect and builder of the hall, and his demonstration was a big hit amongst all who attended.



Curator Faith Norwood set up several displays in the Town Hall, to include local events such as the Pawnee War, and legal history. These exhibits enhanced the attendee's experiences so they had the opportunity to feel the history that surrounded them.

Finally, the hot dogs,

buns, and soda were donated by No Frill Supermarket in Blair, and Wal-Mart in Fremont. Everyone who partook in the food enjoyed very much, and we are all looking forward to a similar event in the near future!

ASSOCIATION HOLDS CHILI CONTEST

The Washington County Historical Association will hold a chili contest on September 30, 2007. The contest will be held behind the Washington County Museum from 1:00-4:00PM. Donations will be accepted upon entry to the event.

Not only will you be treated to some of the best chili in the county, but you will have the chance to meet the "Rump Roaster's" cheer squad for the Omaha Beef Arena Football team, who have volunteered to judge our competition.

We also want to extend an invitation for our newsletter subscribers to be the first participants entering our competition. An entry form has been included in this newsletter so you have the first opportunity to
Cont. on pg. 2...

ALEXANDER HAMILTON AT DANA COLLEGE

Alexander Hamilton may be the least known and most forgotten of the founding fathers. If not for his early demise at the hands of Aaron Burr, Hamilton may have become more famous than what he is known for today.

Dana College will host the Historical Alexander Hamilton Collection through late August into September as a way to promote the college, Blair, and Washington County. This exhibit has only one stop in the state of Nebraska, and Dana plans to make the most of hosting this unique collection.

On September 14,

the Washington County Historical Association will host Dr. Mark Scherer at a "Lunch and Learn" event. Dr. Scherer is a colonial and revolutionary America historian at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. When asked about Hamilton, Scherer stated "Hamilton is one of the most influential figures of his era, yet he is often the most overlooked of our founding fathers, even though his involvement in the American Revolution is just as substantial as Madison or Monroe." The time for this event is not yet available, but once determined, an announcement will be made to the museum's membership.

Even if you cannot attend the lecture, we encourage you to see this unique exhibition explaining the life and times of one of our most intriguing early leaders.



"his (Hamilton's) involvement is the American Revolution is just as substantial as Madison or Monroe."

Dr. Mark Scherer on Hamilton's involvement in the American Revolution.

CHILI CONTEST...

enter the contest.

If you are interested in participating, there is a \$10 charge to reserve a 8'x8' section, and these are limited. A list of what you will need to bring and rules are included in this article. Ribbons will be awarded for first through third place, and all contestants will receive a commemorative

certificate for their participation. Thank you for your interest, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Rules:

1) The chili must be prepared prior to arrival at the competition. A minimum of two quarts must be prepared for judging.

2) Contestants are responsible for supplying their own utensils. An area will be provided for the contestants, but each must bring their own table and chairs.

3) Each contestant will be assigned a judges number by the head judge. The contestant should verify their number with the judge before turning in their samples for judgment. A contestant may be asked to sample their own chili if requested by a judge.

BALLOT FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors for the Washington County Historical Association holds their annual meeting on August 13, 2007. The meeting is held at the Washington County Museum and begins at 7:00PM. At 7:15, the regularly scheduled board meeting will begin, which is open to the public. The following is a ballot for the board brought forth by the Nominating Committee:

- Marilyn Abariotes
- Nancy Cady
- Diane Eilers
- Diane Jensen
- Kathy Jensen
- Tom Kranda
- Scott Lashier
- Dawn Nielsen
- Judy Rohwer
- Neale Shaner
- Stu Sprick

Items to bring:

Table, dipping and serving spoons, 5-8 quart chili pot, heating device, pot Holders, tablecloth, paper towels, ladle, 1-3 gallons of water (cleanup and/or fire protection)

WASHINGTON COUNTY DOCUMENTS TO BE SCANNED BY ASSOCIATION

In the basement of the Washington County Courthouse, unique and invaluable papers have sat for several decades, waiting for their ascent to the historical record. In June, the County Board of Supervisors approved a proposal by the Association to begin saving these documents in electronic form.

The original proposal set before the board a month previous asked that all of the documents be given to the museum for preservation. However legalities made this impractical, and the next best alternative was to take the

items out on loan and then copy them in a format where they would be available for public use.

While the original documents will slowly deteriorate, they will be preserved in some format so the valuable information they carry will never be lost.

The project will begin no later than January of 2008, when the equipment is purchased to begin this complex but worthwhile project. Scanning documents is tedious work, and just one document may take up to three minutes. Since there are thousands of documents in

the courthouse to save, it may require triple that amount in time to scan those items.

The process is further complicated when a document is larger than a typical sheet of paper. At that point, further graphic work is required to "mend" files so a full view can be provided.

For a project of such immense proportions, we are asking for volunteers to help scan, mend, or transport documents. If you are interested in helping, or just learning about the process, please feel free to contact the museum at 468-5740.

OUR WISH LIST

The following are some of the items the museum needs for exhibits, displays, or daily operations:

- 5 oz. paper drinking cups
- White cotton sheets
- Dish towels for staff kitchen

We are in need of photographs for the following areas of the county:

- Herman (other than cyclone pictures)
- Nashville
- Washington
- Telbasta

And finally, we are always in need of volunteer assistance. There are several large projects that the museum staff will begin this month, and we need assistance. There is no prior experience needed, all you have to bring is yourself and enthusiasm for local history! Thank you!

"While the original documents will slowly deteriorate, they will be preserved in some format so the valuable information they carry will never be lost."

19TH CENTURY NEBRASKA IN THE SUMMER

- In July and August of 1804, the Corps of Discovery moved up the Missouri River on their way to find a waterway that led to the Pacific Ocean.
- On June 6, 1820, Stephen Long's expedition left Engineering Cantonment to explore along the Platte River.
- In June, 1827, the last troops leave Fort Atkinson.
- In August of 1854, Lt. John Grattan set out to punish the Brule Sioux for killing a Mormon cow and through numerous misunderstandings, all but one soldier was killed during the battle that followed.
- On September 6, 1858, the Buchanan administration began charging for land in the Nebraska Territory despite numerous calls for free homesteads.
- On September 1, 1894, William Jennings Bryan becomes the chief editor of the Omaha World Herald, securing a medium where he could further promote the Populist Party.

**Washington County
Historical Association**

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**We are on the web:
www.newwashcohist.org**

*Safeguarding Washington County history
through preservation and education.*

The Washington County Historical Association has been serving the community since 1925. We presently own three sites that can be reserved for tours, and are open to the public during the following times:

- *The Washington County Museum in Fort Calhoun: open Monday, and Wednesday-Friday from 9:00AM-4:00PM. The museum is also open on weekends from 1:00PM-4:00PM except on every 2nd and 4th Sunday.*
- *The Fred and Sadie Frahm House in Fort Calhoun: Open to the public every 2nd and 4th Sunday from 1:00-4:00PM. The Frahm House is also open for tours and can be reserved for parties up to 45 people. Call the museum for further details.*
- *Fontanelle Town Hall in Fontanelle Nebraska: Can be reserved for tours and private parties up to 25 people with a minimum of one month notice. The Town Hall is also open during the spring and summer for special events.*

We are also available for speaking events for your organization. If you are interested in a list of topic, please contact Tony at the museum by e-mail, fax, or phone. Thank you for all of your support over the past 82 years! Visit us soon!

WASHINGTON COUNTY
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 25
FORT CALHOUN, NE 68023

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