



Grinnell Historical Museum

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2009

The Grinnell Historical Museum, 1125 Broad St., is a 10-room, late-Victorian residence open to the public from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday (Tuesday through Sunday in the summer). The house contains excellent examples of furniture and decor from the turn of the 20th century, arranged to create a feeling of family life at the time. Admission is always free. To contact the museum, call 236-7827 and leave a message.

MUSEUM BOARD

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NEWSLETTER

Contributors: Vera Cousins, Howard McDonough, Dorrie Lalonde, Barb Lease, Betty Moffett, Phyllis Meredith

Editor: Mary Schuchmann

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Lincoln and J.B. Grinnell

Remembering the 16th president on the 200th anniversary of his birth



1809-1865



1831-1891

It should be no surprise that J.B. Grinnell, a staunch abolitionist, knew President Abraham Lincoln. J.B. went to Washington in 1863 when he was elected to the first of his two terms in Congress. The following excerpts are taken from Charles E. Payne's book, "Josiah Bushnell Grinnell," published in 1936.

J. B. Grinnell probably first met Abraham Lincoln in 1860, Payne wrote, after which "a friendship rapidly developed." Payne quotes then from the Annals of Iowa: "When a delegation of Iowa editors and office seekers called upon the new President immediately after the inauguration, they were introduced to the President by Hon. Josiah B. Grinnell who seemed to know everybody from Iowa and was well acquainted with the President also."

In 1864, Grinnell introduced a resolution "encouraging the enlistment of negroes in the Northern armies." After the resolution passed, Payne wrote that Lincoln invited Grinnell to his office and said, "...It is a great day for the black man when you tell him he shall carry a gun....it foretells that he is to have the full enjoyment of his liberty and manhood... Tell your people in Iowa...that the time has come for everybody to be fighting the rebels...and if you have any strong-legged jackasses in Iowa that can kick the rebels..., they have my hearty consent."

From the president

We've had a very rewarding year at the Grinnell Historical Museum, with more visitors than in past years.

Extensive repair and painting of the 1895 structure was completed, with both the exterior and interior being painted as close to the original colors as possible. To celebrate the occasion, we had a lawn party in June with music and refreshments. More than 150 people attended. The museum's Spaulding and Laros buggies were on display at the Grinnell Vintage Auto Club Show downtown on that day and also at the Happy Days car show in August.

The museum's entry in the Grinnell Fourth



Howard McDonough
in the July 4 parade

of July parade won first place. The float featured the Randolph Header that was manufactured in Grinnell in 1879. (See photo at right.)

As part of a special community observance in November honoring World War II

veterans, the museum was open daily for two weeks, with displays, speakers and special music. In early December we were open for Jingle Bell Holiday. We served roasted chestnuts and cider, had musical entertainment, and gave away homemade tree ornaments.

We are fortunate to have such dedicated board members and volunteers. Many of the tasks that other museums have to hire done are done here by volunteers. For this we thank you!

The upkeep of the museum is funded by investments, which have decreased like every one else's. The operation of the museum (lights, heat, etc.) are funded by memberships and donations. With the downturn in the economy, we will now need both financial and volunteer help more than ever.

Howard McDonough



The museum's entry in the Grinnell Fourth of July parade took top honors.

Museum shares its treasures

A Is for Apron

Aprons from Grinnell's past were displayed by museum board member Barb Lease at a meeting of the Jewel Box Quilt Guild. While aprons have always been a practical way to protect clothing, they have in recent years become fashion statements. Aprons from the museum's collection included a white cotton lattice weave with crocheted lace, a white-on-white sheer cotton with a ruffle, a linen embroidered fabric, a white cotton with turkey-red embroidery, and a blue gingham with cross stitch. For the audience, the collection brought back warm memories of aprons worn by mothers and grandmothers.

C Is for Christmas

Museum volunteers presented a Victorian Christmas to residents of the Mayflower Community on a snowy December afternoon. Dorrie Lalonde, Barb Lease, Dorothy Loudon and Betty Moffett brought a variety of items from the Victorian era to show that many of our Christmas customs originated in Victorian times. The items included Christmas postcards, New Year's calling cards, a basket of food and clothing that would be given to a less fortunate family, a feather tree with handmade ornaments; and excerpts from Grinnell newspapers describing local Christmas activities.

Many thanks to our donors in 2008

The Grinnell Historical Museum is grateful to the many individuals and groups who made monetary contributions in the past year.

Harriet & Arnold Adelberg	Gordon & Jackie Halverson	James R. & Linda Paulson
Dan & Nancy Agnew	Betty & Montie Hammond	Richard & Carol Pearce
Jonathan G. Andelson	Elizabeth Hays	Mary E. Pearson
Phyllis C. Armstrong	Arthur M. Heimann	Donald & Audrey Jean Pederson
Roberta Atwell	Joan & Arnie Heimsoth	Roger & Mitzi J. Pederson
Judi & Sig Barber	Historical & Literary Club	Phi Rho Lambda
Betty Ann Battey	Leta Hollmann	Karen & Ed Phillips
Steve & Judy Bennett	Helen Hulsebus	Reba & Ned Postels
Peter & Diane Boeke	Christopher & Judith Hunter	Marty & Dick Purcell
Edd W. Bowers	Clark & Annie Jensen	Maynard & Eloise Raffety
Harold F. Brown	Sally Johnson	Howard & Suzy Raffety
Clara Bulens	Elsie J. Johnston	Rick & Sue Ramsey
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Nancy & Bob Cadmus	Jill & Dan Kaiser	James Sanders
Ginny & Douglas Cameron	Avis Kelm	Kenneth & Phyllis Saunders
Janet Carl & Greg Johnson	Bette Kersey	John & Pat Saxton
Lynn & Mike Cavanagh	Jean Kinnaird	Donald and Jeananne Schild
Jon and Jeannie Chenette	Philip L. Kintner	Russ & Mary Schuchmann
Gloria Clay	Neal Klausner	Emily & Craig Schultz
Beryl & Mary Lou Clotfelter	Jerry & Dorrie Lalonde	Doug & Roberta See
Vera & Lloyd Cousins	Sally Lang	Robert D. Smith
Jim & Joan Cunningham	Tom & Dianne Latimer	Marci J. Sortor & Daniel Ferro
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Sue & George Drake	Jean Libbey	Thomas & Kathy Szary
Drummond Club	Dorothy & Gordon Loudon	Russell & Barbara Tabbert
Mari & Charles Duke	Emily Ann & Ben Loudon	Jack Templeton
Marian Dunham	Mabel M. Madill	Les & Kay Tharp
Al and Marie Eisenman	Sally & Gary Maring	Jeanette Tisdale
Jenny & Luther Erickson	Thomas & Connie Marshall	Tuesday Club
Shane & Robin Estes	Philip E. McCune	Larry & Gini Van Ervelde
Donovan Evans	Howard & Sue McDonough	Norma L. Vance
Edwin & Eula Fields	Phyllis Meredith	Roger & Val Vetter
Donald & Val Gall	Orlan & Verlene Mitchell	Bruce & Martha Voyles
Hugh & Janet German	Alex S. Moffett	Beatrice M. Wall
Verna & Everett Gerrish	Carol Molison	Bill & Joy Weeks
Kim & James Gilbert	Jan & Jack Mutti	Jim and Marcia White
Maretta & Worthin Grattan	Cheryl Neubert	Victor & Diane Wilson
D. Ruth Greenwald	Carol Nielsen	Bonnie Lou & Gordon Wold
Gail & Stanley Greenwald	Bill & Debi Olson	Netia Worley
Robert & Mary Grey	Russell & Paula Osgood	Larry E. & Jo Wray
Grinnell College	Dorothy & Phil Palmer	Oliva A. Wright
Virgil & Patricia Groth	Ruth Palmer	M. J. Zimmerman
Robert & Karen Groves	Michele and Morris Parslow	Merle W. Zirkle
Tommy & Dennis Haas		

Donor support is vital

As might be expected, the Grinnell Historical Museum has seen diminished returns from its endowment in the past year. Annual operating costs at the museum total approximately \$20,000. Generous contributions of about \$6,000 from donors helped make up for some of that shortfall. Thanks to all of those who helped make that happen. We hope you will be able to continue to support your local history museum.

Counting and more

Museum volunteers continue to catalog our artifacts with the help of PastPerfect software. Since the project started in 2005, 1,042 records of objects, photos, archives and library items have been entered, 498 of those in 2008. A team of two people working together can add from 10 to 15 records in a morning - photographing, describing, measuring, barcoding and labeling each item and noting its location. With the thousands of items in the museum's collection, you can see we have a long way to go!

CLASSIFIEDS

WANTED Your visit to the museum	WANTED Your knowledge of Grinnell's past	WANTED Docents at the museum
THANK YOU For assistance from organizations and businesses in Grinnell		THANK YOU To our many faithful volunteers
THANK YOU To our donors for their support	LOOKING FOR Information about old hotels in Grinnell	THANK YOU For attending museum events



Grinnell Historical Museum
 1125 Broad Street
 Grinnell, Iowa 50112
 WINTER 2009

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Marian Dunham 1919-2008

Marian Dunham was a longtime museum volunteer. One of her last contributions to the museum's programs occurred in 2007 when Davis School students made their annual visit. Marian sat in a rocker on the front porch and regaled the students with tales of her school days in Grinnell. Later, many of them commented that listening to "the lady on the porch" was their favorite part of the day.

2009 FUND DRIVE

Grinnell Historical Museum

Join in support of the Grinnell Historical Museum with a contribution and/or an offer to volunteer

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

The Grinnell Historical Museum is a non-profit organization under Code 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

I AM INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING _____ *Volunteer opportunities include docent, exhibits and displays, garden and yard, house repairs, publicity, newsletter, research requests.*
(Please specify) _____

Make checks payable to the Grinnell Historical Museum
Mail to Vera Cousins, treasurer, 903 16th Ave., Grinnell, IA 50112

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