



"Where History Meets on 10th Street"



Marion Historical Society Newsletter

Including news from *Granger House Museum* and the *Marion Heritage Center*
July 2008 Marion, Iowa

The Marion Historical Society, Inc., was formed to discover, interpret, and preserve the unique history of the region, and to provide activities for the instruction of citizens, visitors, the community and the surrounding area regarding these historical treasures.

Events in Brief:

Sunday, July 27 – Granger House Ice Cream Social 1-4 p.m.

Thursday, July 11 – Volunteers Tea @ Granger House 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sunday, July 31 – Friends & Neighbors Art Exhibit Closes

TBA in August – “Communication by Mail” Fresco moves to Heritage Center

*******Granger House Ice Cream Social*******

Sunday, July 27, 1-4 p.m.

It's once again time for the annual Granger House Ice Cream Social. Last year's social was a whole lot of fun and this year's event promises to be just as inviting. We can only hope that the weather on July 27st will be just as glorious as the day we enjoyed last year but we know that the cakes and pies will be just as luscious and the ice cream cold so mark you calendars for this annual treat. In addition to the tasty treats for the sweet tooth, Granger House will be the scene for the music of the Marion Big Band. Hosted by the Marion Historical Society Board and the Marion Sunrise Kiwanis Club, the Ice Cream Social is the Society's summer fundraiser. The cost will be \$3 for a serving of ice cream and a tasty dessert, and all funds raised will go to support the operation of the Society. So, please, mark your calendars and make a point of spending the afternoon with us at Granger House! If you'd like to volunteer to help out on the day of the Social or by contributing a pie, cake or cookies to the effort, please contact the Granger House at 377-6672 or via email: GrangerHouse@juno.com

Granger House Opens for Summer Season & Déjà Vu All Over Again

Entering the Granger House is always a step back in time but a visit to Granger House this summer might cause you to really wonder if you've stepped through some portal to the past. That new but familiar face that you'll see there belongs to Barbara Feller who, many will recall, was the Granger House Director from 1996 -2001. Since then, Barb has been involved in educational programs at the Carl & Mary Koehler History Center, Grant Wood's Studio at Five Turner Alley and at the Science Station. She's happy to be back at Granger House and she has lots of ideas. Be sure to stop by to welcome her back! The Granger House is open 1-4 p.m. Thursdays – Sundays through September. Special tours can be scheduled by calling the Granger House at 319-377-6672 or by e-mail: GrangerHouse@Juno.com.

Marion Historical Society needs you!

As you well know, the Marion Historical Society is always in need of volunteers to keep Granger House and the Marion Heritage Center open and operating. In appreciation of our current volunteers and to encourage more volunteers, the Marion Historical Society will be offering a **Volunteer Tea at the Granger House on Thursday, July 17 from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** You and a friend are invited to join us for sweet treats and a cuppa tea while you learn how you can help us preserve Marion's history. There are many ways to help us out, such as, by leading tours, planning events, creating exhibits, hosting teas, preserving artifacts and papers, weeding the garden or swinging a hammer. Interested? **Please call 319-377-6672 by July 15 to RSVP. Leave a message with your name and # of people who will be attending.**

Marion Historical Society Annual Meeting July 24nd, 2008

The annual meeting of the Marion Historical Society will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 24, 2007, at the Granger House. The agenda for the annual meeting is the election of officers, followed by a regular business meeting. All Society members can take part in the election of officers. Further, any Society member may serve on the Board. Contact one of our Board members if you are interested in doing so. The Board meets monthly throughout the year to make decisions affecting our two sites. Board members serve for a term of three years.

“Communication by Mail” on the Move

Since our last newsletter there has been lots of activity involving the “Communication by Mail” fresco. Art Conservator, Tony Rajer and his team of helpers returned from Madison, Wisconsin in mid June to continue work on the project. Tuesday morning, June 17th, was “Free the Fresco Day” as a team of workers successfully moved the fresco from the old Post Office/City Hall building. After the fresco wall was cut away from the building, it was lowered to the floor and boxed up. The workers from Weitz Company then loaded the heavy package onto dollies and wheeled the fresco out into the bright light of day. There Coonrod Wrecker and Crane Service lifted the fresco up over the utility lines and down onto a waiting flatbed truck. The fresco was then transported to the Area Ambulance building where the process was reversed to safely deposit the fresco on the floor in an unused portion of their garage. In early July, Tony returned to Marion to begin the next phase in the project. With the help of Chad Kelly from Kelly Concrete on the forklift, Tony supervised as Tony Perkins and members of the Marion High School football team lowered the fresco to a face down position on the floor. The fresco is now unboxed and Tony has begun to clean the fresco and prepare it for the final leg of its journey, scheduled for August, to its new home at the Marion Heritage Center.

Art by Friends & Neighbors

This year’s annual “Friends & Neighbors” Art Exhibit will close Saturday, July 27th so if you haven’t been up to the Marion Heritage Center yet to enjoy the fabulous talent on display or if you want to take it in a second time, you’ve only got a few weeks left. The works of forty-two Marion artists, past and present, are on display for your viewing pleasure. HILLS BANK AND TRUST COMPANY is once again sponsoring this exhibit and this year will be offering \$75.00 prizes to the artists garnering the top votes in “People’s Choice” award that will be presented at the conclusion of this exhibit. You will be able to cast a vote for your favorite when you stop in for a visit.

Scrapbook Memories

Who remembers Mary Lockett? On February 14, 1940, a local newspaper featured an article on Marion resident Mary F. Lockett, who the article reports, was a well known author and inventor who lived at 1248 North Tenth street in Marion. According to the article, Mary began to write articles at the age of 10 years, her first published book was titled “Christopher.” She wrote a number of books, poems and songs and also wrote prose and poetry for the ‘Federal Reserve’ during WWI. Miss Lockett was also an inventor, holding patent rights for her invention, the “spark and soot collector.” This invention, patented in 1920, was a wire netting used at the outlet of locomotive smoke stacks, residences and factory chimneys. When in use, it prevented the lighted cinder from being blown into the open, thereby, preventing fires in homes, factories and forests. At the time of the article, Miss Lockett was selling the patent rights for the invention. Mary also claimed to trace her ancestry back to Augustine Washington (father of George Washington) and to Oliver Wendell Holmes, the poet. An accompanying article in the scrapbook, reported on March 9, 1940 that Mary Lockett had died in a Cedar Rapids hospital. Does anyone out there know anything more about Miss Lockett or the titles of any other of her books?

New and Renewing Members

(Since April 2008)

The following people have renewed or become new members in the Society since our last newsletter:

Thank you to all members, donors and sponsors for your valuable support!

*Anne Loomis Marian Peters Richard & Marjorie Ferris Jim Bouslog
Martha White Darlene Nash & Don Deacon Swati & Arvind Dandkar
Mark & Myrna Carter Robert & Sharon Murray moe. Charles & Edna Stookesberry
Diane Sweeny Ida Gould Joy Hingtgen Terry & Lu Canning Susan Ryan-Anderson
Mary Durspek Sally McCormick-Hill & Jeff Hill Jean McCormick Jim & Jean White
Mike Goater Renee Kincheloe Thea Leslie*

We couldn't do it without you!

The Marion Historical Society Board of Directors and Staff

Marjorie Reynolds: President, Vic Klopfenstein: Vice President, Mark Morgan: Secretary, Barb Robison: Treasurer

Other Members on the Board of Directors: Jim Rosche, Paul Rehn, Sam Dillon, Granger House Director: Barbara Feller, Marion Heritage Center Coordinator & Newsletter Editor: Karen Clark-Hansen, Membership Administration: Eula Wood

You may contact us at: P. O. Box 753, Marion, IA 52302-0753, at (319) 377-6672, or 447-6377

Please remember to let us know when you add or change your e-mail address or phone number, for we often let our members know what is happening through these means. Your privacy is respected by the Society: your personal information is used only for internal correspondence. And, as always, thank you for letting us know what you think concerning YOUR Historical Society!

Floods of '08 and local museums.

World Lunch coming to Uptown Marion!

There are a lot of things that make Marion a special place to be and this summer you'll have another fun stop to make on your way to visiting the Granger House or Heritage Center. "World Lunch" is a new event being planned for uptown Marion. Between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on the 2nd Saturdays of June, July, August and September, Marion's Cultural & Entertainment District Committee is hosting a celebration of this area's cultural diversity with the focus on international, ready-to-eat foods. You can try a treat you've never tasted before or rediscover a forgotten favorite! Then watch how the pros do it – cooking demonstrations will educate and delight, and perhaps give you the confidence to try it at home. If you fill up too soon, relax while being entertained by authentic musicians and dancers. Bring your family or meet friends and enjoy a taste of something new at beautiful Marion Square Park. Then stroll over to the Granger House or Heritage Center to finish off your afternoon of local entertainment.