

# SARPY COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

2402 Clay Street  
Bellevue, Nebraska 68005  
(402) 292-1880  
[www.sarpycountymuseum.org](http://www.sarpycountymuseum.org)

## Welcome To Your Museum

*Embracing Sarpy County History and Tradition*

### Upcoming Event

Sарpy County Museum's annual Holiday Open House will be December 4<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 – 4:00 P.M.

Entertainment this year will be provided by handbell duo, *Truth Be Told*.

The open house is free and open to the public, so feel free to bring anyone and everyone you know! Drink will be provided but we encourage you to bring a favorite snack to share. A bake sale to benefit the Museum will also be held.

The lucky winner of the long awaited quilt raffle drawing will be discovered. It may even be you!

<http://www.sarpycountymuseum.org/>



### OCTOBER 2011

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### Quilt Raffle Tickets

Are you feeling lucky? Tickets are still available for this year's quilt raffle fundraiser. Support a good cause and have the chance to win a wonderful quilt. Tickets are one for \$1.00 or six for \$5.00. The name of the winner will be drawn at the annual Open House on Sunday, December 4, 2011.

## President's Note

### Letter to the Membership

I wrote to you earlier this year stating we would be having a strategic planning session to set short and long-term goals for the museum. We did have that session; however, we have put this on temporary hold to address an issue that came to us two weeks after the strategic planning session.

As our Bylaws define we must notify you, the Membership, of any changes to our Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, Non-profit status or Legal issues.

In July 2011, we received notification from the IRS that we lost our 501C3 status in November 2010. This stems from the 2006 Protection Act that went into effect in 2007 where Non-Profits are required to file a 990 tax return within 90 days of each tax year-end. The notifications from the IRS state that if we do not file our 990 tax returns for five years (2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010) then they will automatically revoke a non-profit's 501C3 tax-exempt status. The Protection Act also puts more requirements on non-profits that are currently not in place for the Sarpy County Historical Society but are being addressed.

This is a result of the 2006 Protection Act and not following through on the notifications received from the IRS since 2006 telling us we did not file our prior year's 990 returns.

The current executive leadership and director, though not responsible for the revocation status, are working to fulfill all necessary requirements to get reinstated. We have completed a 60-page questionnaire and report. This has been submitted to the IRS with the appropriate fees. I will keep you updated on our status.

Feel free to contact me if you have further questions (402-331-3665 home).

Thank you for your continued support of the Sarpy County Museum.

Best Wishes,

*Brenda Carlisle*, Board President



**SARPY COUNTY**  
**M • U • S • E • U • M**

## Artifact Of The Month

Politics and elections are almost as American as baseball, apple pie and hot dogs. Sarpy County's long political history dates back to the days even before the county existed when Thomas B. Cuming decided to relocate the territorial capital from Bellevue to Omaha. This month's artifact is a ballot box from the town of Melia. Platted March 26, 1903, today Melia no longer exists. Founded by John J. Melia along the Burlington Railroad, the town had a hotel, bar, blacksmith and post office. Despite all this, Melia eventually faded away; becoming a "ghost town," while nearby Gretna grew.



## Membership Renewal

Do you have a red circle on your mailing label? If so, it is time to renew your membership! Please mail your renewal check today, and help us fulfill our mission to collect, preserve, interpret and promote Sarpy County history.

## Recent additions to the Museum's Collection:

- ☐ Ken Roush Collection
  - ☐ Army PT shirts
  - ☐ Pennants documenting his travels
  - ☐ Assorted field gear



## Calendar of Events

November 19 @ 1pm *Bellevue* Book Signing @ The Bookworm (8702 Pacific Street Omaha, NE 68114)

November 26<sup>th</sup> 12-4pm WorldFest Bellevue Lied Center (2700 Arboretum Drive, Bellevue)

December 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 1pm *Bellevue* Book Signing @ Barnes and Nobles (3333 Oakview Drive Omaha, NE 68144)

December 4<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm Christmas Open House

January 29<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm Sunday Series featured the OOPS Storytellers

**Look for a full calendar of events in the January 2012 issue!**

### Do you have any...

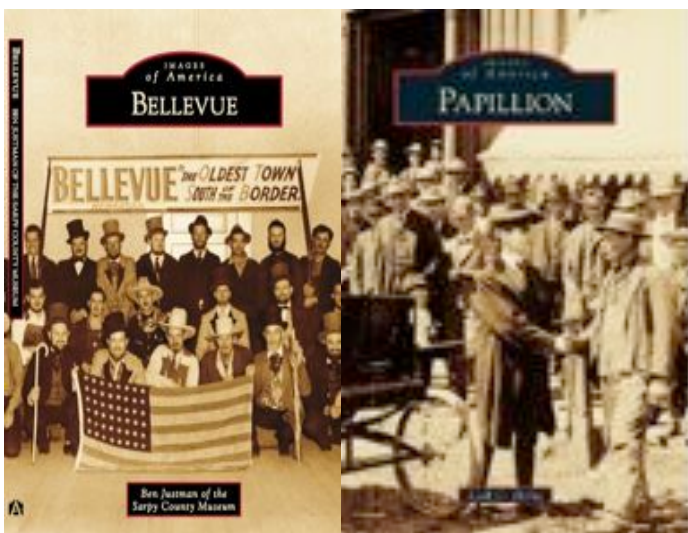
...photos, stories, history or artifacts that reflect military service within your family? If so, we would be grateful if you would share them with the Sarpy County Museum.

2011 marks the 150th anniversary since the start of the American Civil War, 70 years since America's entry into World War Two, and a decade since the start of the war on terror. Collecting the history of Sarpy County military veterans is vital in order to preserve the contributions of the men and women within our communities who have taken part in defending this country.



### Out Now!

Two great new history books



Copies Available at the Museum

### Museum Wish List

- ✓Address Labels
- ✓Cream/Ivory Paper for Newsletters
- ✓Scotch Tape
- ✓New Members



### Old Ink Cartridges?

Do not throw out that old printer ink cartridge! Donate it. Since the museum is a non-profit organization, Office Max offers a \$3 in store credit per used HP, Dell, or Lexmark ink cartridges with a maximum of 10 cartridges per week.

That could amount to \$120 of savings every month that could be spent towards office supplies or on the paper that this very newsletter is printed on.

Thank you to all those who have donated ink cartridges throughout the year. These old used ink cartridges have proven to be extremely beneficial to the museum in allowing us to obtain the necessary office supplies.

Total Volunteer Hours January – October

**2,384**

Total Volunteer Hours Garage Sale

**499**

## Director's Corner

I would like to thank all those who attended, volunteered, and sponsored the Buried Bellevue History Cemetery Tour and the Hysterical Historical Fall Festival. A special thanks goes to Margaret Stamp, who took the reins to coordinate the cemetery event and to Megan Lucas of the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce, who not only volunteered at the cemetery event but also helped to organize the Hysterical Historical Fall Festival.

Our sponsors and supporters included:

Highland Meadows Apartments, The Baer Foundation, City of Bellevue, Bellevue Chamber of Commerce, Bellevue Memorial Chapel, Bellevue-Offutt Kiwanis, Bellevue Tire and Auto, Betts Enterprises, DC Electric/Heartland Lighting, Erwin's Jewelry, Great Southern Bank, Hy-Vee, John A. Gentleman Mortuaries, Sherwin Williams, Travis Castle of American Family Insurance, Tree, Shrubs & More, Wells Fargo Bank and Rainbow Glass.

As my first full year serving as the Executive Director of the Sarpy County Museum draws near, a few notes of progress worth mentioning but certainly not limited to include:

- A greater number of programs and events
- An increased presence within the communities of Sarpy County
- A growing number of Museum volunteers as well as a new intern
- New signage through the collaborative efforts of Sarpy County Facilities
- Updated computer technology funded through a community grant
- A new book on the history of Bellevue

It has been an exciting year and I look forward to what's in store for next year.

Hope to see you at the Museum,

*Ben Justman*

[director@sarpymuseum.org](mailto:director@sarpymuseum.org)

## Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are the backbone of the Sarpy County Museum. We are currently looking for new volunteers who are interested in keeping history alive. A variety of tasks to best suit your talents and interests are available. Your time commitment is completely negotiable. For more information, contact the Museum at (402) 292- 1880 or [info@sarpymuseum.org](mailto:info@sarpymuseum.org).



## Sarpy County Museum Board of Directors

Brenda Carlisle - President  
Paul Hartnett - Treasurer  
Linda Iske - Secretary  
Anne Koch - Corresponding Secretary  
Rosemary Lucky - Past President

Carol Blood  
Donna Daly  
Marilyn Gillen  
Kay Holst  
Al Johnson  
Phil Kaldahl  
Jim Miller  
Dave Newman  
Barb Vaughn  
Wayne Woodard

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It is time to hold the 2011 Election of the Board of Directors. We will be holding elections on December 4<sup>th</sup> at the Open House get together. We will conduct this order of business at the beginning of the program.

We will open the meeting asking for any nominations; if you are interested in running for a seat on the Board of Directors you will need to be present and nominated by another member at the meeting; then we will hand write your name on the ballot. If no other nominations are presented, then we will close nominations and vote. There are seven board seats up for election this year.

Family memberships and all levels above are allowed two votes.

If you are unable to attend but would like to have your vote counted, you may sign the attached proxy and give to another member of the Society. They will need to present the proxy at the December 4<sup>th</sup> meeting at which time they will cast a vote on your behalf.

The candidates at this time are:

Al Johnson

Barbara Vaughn

Donna Daly

Marilyn Gillen

Carol Blood

Kay Holst

Rosemary Lucky

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **Sarpy County Historical Society Proxy**

I \_\_\_\_\_, member of Sarpy County Museum hereby  
give \_\_\_\_\_, my proxy to vote for board of directors  
on December 4, 2011

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## September 2011 Memberships and Donations

**Millennium** \$1000 **Pioneer Benefactor** \$500-\$999 **Benefactor** \$250-\$499 **Builder** \$100-\$249  
**Patron** \$50-\$99 **Family/Dual** \$18 **Individual** \$10

### **BUILDER \$100-\$249**

Mrs. Barbara Helwig	Bellevue, NE
Alyce Green	Plattsmouth, NE
Wes Turtcher	Papillion, NE

### **SUSTAINING \$25-\$49**

Rodney & Pennie Kreifels	Modesto, CA
Mrs. Caryl Horton	Papillion, NE
Mr. & Mrs. Alton Arnsdorff	Bellevue, NE

### **FAMILY/DUAL \$18-\$24**

Dennis & Rebekah Wilfong	Plattsmouth, NE
Mr. & Mrs. Corky Spencer	Gretna, NE
Brenda Carlisle	La Vista, NE
Steven & Gayle Justman	Wilmette, NE
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Hartnett	Bellevue, NE
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Farley	Bellevue, NE

### **INDIVIDUAL \$10**

Mary Reding	Bellevue, NE
Francie Robertson	Bellevue, NE
Mary Macloskey	Bellevue, NE
Nadine L. Charvat	Bellevue, NE

### **DONATIONS**

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Hartnett


### **RECENT EVENT SPONSORS**

Highland Meadows Apartments, The Baer Foundation, City of Bellevue, Bellevue Chamber of Commerce, Bellevue Memorial Chapel, Bellevue-Offutt Kiwanis, Bellevue Tire and Auto, Betts Enterprises, DC Electric/Heartland Lighting, Erwin's Jewelry, Great Southern Bank, Hy-Vee, John A. Gentleman Mortuaries, Sherwin Williams, Travis Castle of American Family Insurance, Tree, Shrubs & More, Wells Fargo Bank and Rainbow Glass.

# THANK YOU!

William A. Forsee  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS, DISTRICT 5

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 **DC Electric**  
**Heartland Lighting Inc.**



Carol Blood  
*Councilwoman at Large*

**City of Bellevue**

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**Permit No. 41**

*Would you like to receive your Sarpy County Museum Newsletter via email? If so, please email your name, address and email address to [info@sarpycountymuseum.org](mailto:info@sarpycountymuseum.org).*

*In the subject line type: "email newsletter"*