

## **SARPY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM A BRIEF LOOK**

**MISSION:** To collect, preserve, and interpret historical information and artifacts about Sarpy County.

**LEGAL STATUS:** Non-profit tax-exempt corporation.

**MEMBERSHIPS:** Approximately 300 memberships at eight levels.

**GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET:** Approximately \$31,000 comes from Sarpy County. The remainder comes from membership dues, admissions, gift shop sales, gifts, memorials, garage sales, quilt raffle, and other fund raising activities.

**SPECIAL FUNDS BUDGETS:** Grants, donations, gifts, and fundraisers are designated for a variety of history projects that fit our mission.

**VOLUNTEERS:** The Society and Museum could not function without the many volunteers who prepare displays, hold fund raisers, give tours, help with the Museum collection, staff the Museum, care for Society property, etc.

**EMPLOYEES:** One, the Executive Director.

**MUSEUM:** Built cooperatively with federal funds by Sarpy County, the City of Bellevue, and the Historical Society. The County owns and cares for the building, the Museum is on City of Bellevue property, and the Society provides the organization and some funds for operational and special activities.

**OTHER PROPERTIES:** The Society owns Bellevue's Historical Log Cabin and Railroad Depot. In late 2009, both were leased to the City of Bellevue for 50 years. The City cares for the properties, and the Society decorates them. The Society owns .7 of an acre with the foundation and chimney of the 1830s Moses Merrill Mission School located just southwest of Bellevue. All are or have been National Register Sites.

**A FEW RECENT GENERAL FUND ACTIVITIES.** Sunday History Series Programs open free to the public, annual Christmas at the Museum, three volumes guide to Sarpy County cemeteries, four volumes of Bellevue and Papillion histories, history tours for 10,000+ during last decade, marked Lewis and Clark three camps in Sarpy County, and Sarpy County's 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday history publication. Kept Sarpy history alive.

**A FEW SPECIAL BUDGET FUND PROJECTS.** Technology grant for copying machine and computer equipment. Grant and staff time for \$60,000-\$70,000 history displays for Sarpy County Court House. Grants, fundraisers, and staff time for \$40,000 model of early Fort Crook for permanent Museum display. Expanded military display. Grants and fund raisers for the five-week Smithsonian Barn Again Exhibit in Springfield that was greatly expanded by Sarpy County farm artifacts and photos with histories of almost every Sarpy County barn. Technology grant for Skype and filming capacity to bring live two-way links from Museum to all Sarpy County classrooms. A collection of 1857 U. S. coins to honor the birth of Sarpy County in 1857.