

210 16th STREET, AURORA, NE

FALL EDITION 2021

PLAINSMAN MUSEUM
CONTACT INFORMATION

Location: 210 16th Street, Aurora, NE 68818

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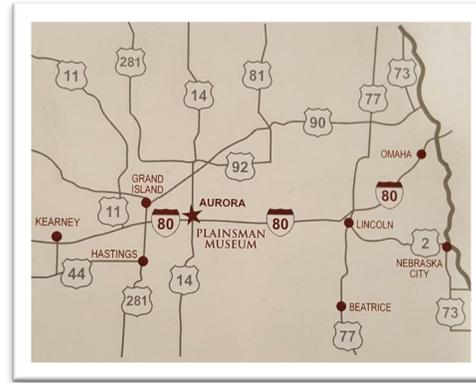
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Clint Mickey

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STAFF

Executive Director: Tina Larson

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Kathryn Larson



Plainsman Museum
210 16th Street
Aurora, NE 68818

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Permit #15





Twin Cottonwoods Journal

Newsletter of the Plainsman Museum

Message from the Director

The summer months are now a memory, but we want to reflect on all that was accomplished by the staff and volunteers. The Bates House was reopened, and though there are a few items left on the “to do” list, it has turned out better than we expected! We also helped Aurora to celebrate 150 years by producing a video entitled “Aurora. Look No Further.” It is available for viewing online by going to plainsmanmuseum.org and clicking on our ‘Video’ tab. You can also find it on our YouTube channel. Commemorative t-shirts designed by Kathryn Larson were also offered for sale.



Administrators, faculty and staff of Hamilton County's schools enjoy the All Staff Back to School Luncheon.

To round out the summer we hosted our 5th Annual All Staff Back to School Luncheon on August 9th

here at the museum. We had around 250 administrators, faculty and staff members from Hampton Lutheran, Hampton Public, Giltner Public and Aurora Public Schools. They were served by high school students from the various schools who also delivered their own personalized messages of thanks and support to all in attendance. Thanks to the Hamilton County Historical Society, Aurora Chamber of Commerce and Kurt and Paula Johnson from the Aurora News-Register for sponsoring the event.

A special thank you to Val Oswald for all his work keeping our grounds and landscaping around all the buildings looking great! We appreciate all the extra hours he puts in to help create a welcoming first impression.

Throughout the summer, our team of volunteers continued to faithfully show up and perform a wide range of tasks to keep the museum running smoothly. So, thank you to Berniece Luthy, Jane Nunnenkamp, Joannie Beins, Roberta Cool, Lynne Nylander, Bob Cool, Dale Saddler, Walt Jacobs, Gary Bayne, Don Bish, Jim Davenport and Larry Bengtson for your great work and dedication.

Work on the Wesley Huenefeld Agricultural Building continues as funding allows for phases to be completed. Jay Schulze, Clint Mickey and Steve Pawley from the Buildings and Grounds Committee continue to monitor and assess how best to move forward. We very much appreciate the generosity of local foundations for the support shown to revitalizing this unique exhibition hall and its tribute to the history of agriculture in our area.

I invite you to review our calendar of events, and follow us on Facebook for all the exciting events coming up this fall.

As always, thank you for your support,

Tina Larson

Executive Director



New insulation in the roof and new concrete on the floor have been added to the Agricultural Building.

NOTICE: WE'RE GOING ONLINE!

After careful consideration, we at the Plainsman Museum have decided to change the distribution of the Twin Cottonwoods Journal from physical mailings to an online format. ***This change will begin after our 2022 Winter Edition.***



What does this mean?

It means that after our 2022 Winter Edition, we will no longer be sending out our newsletter in bulk mailings. Instead, we will have the newsletter posted online on our website, and will notify our members and those on our mailing list via email and Facebook when it's been published.

Can I still get my newsletter in the mail?

Yes! While we will no longer send our newsletter in bulk mailings, we will send physical copies to individuals per request. To request a physical copy of our newsletter, or for any further questions regarding the switch to an online format, please contact the Plainsman Museum office via phone or email.

Phone: 402-694-6531

Email: plainsman@hamilton.net

“Community Works” Returning for Month of September!



In 2019, the Plainsman Museum was selected as one of ten museums from across the country to participate in the Smithsonian’s “Museum on Main Street” program. This program involved us receiving guidance from the Smithsonian Institution to create a special exhibition using artifacts and photographs from our own collection. In April of this year, we were proud to present “Community Works” as our exhibition for that program!

“Community Works” explores the **who, where, why and how of work for the last 150 years of Hamilton County’s history**. The exhibit was retired for the summer, but will again be on display in our rotunda throughout the month of September!

Admission for “Community Works” will be included in the museum’s standard daytime admission fees.

Support for “Community Works” was provided by Humanities Nebraska, the Bernard K. and Norma Heuermann Foundation, the Myrl S. & Bessie Evans Mather Foundation, and Hamilton Community Foundation.

A special “thank you” to Selwyn Ramp (Assistant Director for the Smithsonian’s “Museum on Main Street” program) and Mary Yager (Associate Director for Humanities Nebraska).

Members of the “Community Works” Committee: Brenda Klawonn, Kathryn Larson, Tina Larson, Bruce Ramsour, Jana Van Housen and Karrie Wiarda.



“Community Works” exhibition on display in the rotunda.

“IN OTHER NEWS!”

It’s always exciting whenever we make connections with others who share our passion for history! This last season, we were given the opportunity to



feature in two publications – True West magazine, and Nebraska Life magazine. In True West magazine, we were mentioned in their special collector’s edition on their Living History Museum’s list, and also had an ad placed alongside other museums in the country. In their September/October 2021 edition, Nebraska Life magazine featured an article about our “Community Works” exhibition.

A promotional poster for the Plainsman Museum's 'Day on the Farm' event. The background is a red wooden fence with green corn plants at the bottom. In the center, there is a white outline of a tractor. The text 'Plainsman Museum's' is written in a white, serif font on either side of the tractor. Below the tractor, the words 'DAY ON THE FARM' are written in large, bold, white, sans-serif capital letters with a black outline. Underneath this, the date 'Sept. 12, 2021' is written in a white, serif font inside a white oval with a black outline. To the right of the tractor graphic, there is a white rectangular box with a black border containing event details.

WHEN:
SEPT. 12, 1:00PM - 4:00PM
* ADMISSION IS FREE!

WHERE:
PLAINSMAN MUSEUM
210 16TH ST., AURORA, NE 68818

- BUTTER MAKING
- LEATHERWORKING
- BLACKSMITHING
- SPINNING
- HONEY EXTRACTION

AND MORE!

Invest in the Community While Investing in the Museum

One of the ways to support the preservation of the history of Hamilton County is to include a provision in your will that a share of your estate will be distributed to the Plainsman Museum and the Hamilton County Historical Society. Instead of a will, you may have planned your estate through a revocable trust. A transfer to the museum and historical society from your trust will bring you the same tax and planning benefits as a bequest from a will. This gift may be made directly to the Historical Society's endowment fund, or you may wish to set up a Charitable Bequest with the Hamilton Community Foundation.

All contributions have potential income tax as well as estate and gift tax incentives. For more

information you can visit the Hamilton Community Foundation website, www.hcfne.org, or call 402-694-3200.

Get Your Museum Membership!

Your membership helps to support the Plainsman Museum's work to preserve the story of Hamilton County, NE, while also allowing you access to exclusive benefits. The giving spirit of individuals ensures that our mission continues for future generations. For more membership information, or to pay for your membership online, visit our membership page at:

<https://www.plainsmanmuseum.org/membership>

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events at the Plainsman Museum!

“Community Works” Exhibition – September 1-30



Hamilton County, NE

RETURNING FOR A LIMITED TIME! Be sure to join us as the Plainsman Museum once again presents “Community Works” – a special collaborative exhibition done with the Smithsonian’s “Museum on Main Street” program. The exhibition tells the story of work throughout Hamilton County’s history. Generous support for “Community Works” is provided by: Humanities Nebraska, the Bernard K. and Norma F. Heuermann Foundation, the Myrl S. and Bessie Evans Mather Foundation, and Hamilton Community Foundation. A special “thank you” to Selwyn Ramp – Assistant

Project Director for the Smithsonian’s “Museum on Main Street” program, and Mary Yager – Associate Director for Humanities Nebraska.

Day on the Farm – September 12, 1:00PM – 4:00PM

Come to the museum on Sunday, September 12 for our annual “Day on the Farm”! See some of our local farmers, artisans and craftsman teach our agricultural history through their skilled trades, and enjoy some tasty homemade treats! A baked good auction will also be taking place. For more information, please contact the museum office at 402-694-6531.



Winter Wonderland of Trees – December 1-31

Once again, the Plainsman Museum will be hosting our annual Winter Wonderland of Trees throughout the month of December! Come and see the various Christmas trees decorated by local individuals, businesses and organizations. This event is included in standard museum admissions fees, and will be open to the public during regular museum business hours.



Christmas on the Boardwalk – TBD

Join us for our annual Christmas on the Boardwalk! Admission is FREE! Step back in time and experience some of the Christmas traditions of the past.