



**NIMBLE THIMBLE  
QUILT SHOW  
JUNE 22-24, 9AM-5PM**



**SCHOOL TOURS  
WIND UP BUSY  
SEASON**



# TWIN COTTONWOODS JOURNAL

## NEWSLETTER OF THE PLAINSMAN MUSEUM



"The Twin Cottonwoods" painted in 1925 by Edwin E. Tuepker

On April 6, 1871, Robert Miller and Nathan Thorpe sighted the original twin cottonwoods that guided them to this place. The site had been selected by David Stone that year in March "A dugout in the bank of the creek nearby" was the beginning of Aurora. The local painter, Edwin E. Tuepker, served in the 88th Division in the World War of 1914-1918.





## Hamilton County Mural Project Promoted to Legacy Project for the Nebraska 150 Celebration

The Hamilton County Mural Project at the Plainsman Museum has been honored as a Legacy Project by the Nebraska 150 Celebration ([www.ne150.org](http://www.ne150.org)). Of the 228 Nebraska 150 Celebration Events and Programs, only ten have been designated Legacy Projects.

The brainchild of Aurora’s Jana Van Housen, Renaissance Fine Art and Photography, and Tina Larson, executive director of The Plainsman Museum, resulted in a community wide art history project, now in full swing. Original historical photographs are transferred by Troy Hofmann of After Hours Graphix onto lightweight aluminum material that won’t rust or mold. These enlargements can then be displayed indoors or outdoors. County residents can select a photograph from a personal collection, or the archives of the Plainsman Museum.

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*“The museum houses an incredible archive of photos from all over the county,” said Larson.*

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A selection of murals can be viewed online along with details of the project, and information on how to participate in the program at [www.plainsmanmuseum.org/special-event](http://www.plainsmanmuseum.org/special-event).

### Save the Date: Nimble Thimble Quilt Show



June 22-24 from 9a-5p the Plainsman Museum will be hosting the Nimble Thimble Quilt Guild's 2017 Quilt Show. It promises be a wonderful day for both quilters and quilt fans, with hourly demonstrations, a quilt raffle, and refreshments. Admission to the Plainsman Museum is only \$5 a day. Featured quilter Gwen Stengel of Ravenna, NE, is a master of the nature-inspired quilt.

Read more about Gwen on our blog: [www.plainsmanmuseum.org](http://www.plainsmanmuseum.org)

### School Tours wind up busy Spring Season



Marlin Seeman relays personal stories about his young life on the farm.



Lynne Nylander teaches gaming the good old fashioned way.



Marsha Spiehs tells the story of the first post office in the area.



Bruce Ramsour portrays GEN Delevan Bates to talk about homesteading and the Civil War.



## Social Media Raises Awareness

On March 21, 2017, DawnMarie Moe joined the staff of the Plainsman Museum in a part-time position that focuses on improving our social media presence. The goal is to get visitors through the door, encourage membership, and provide accessible information on the history of Hamilton County. This is accomplished by the consistent use of Facebook, Twitter, the web site, travel sites and more. The efforts of the last month have seen a rise in both Facebook and Twitter reach and engagement. Web site data shows that 85% of people looking at our page are NEW viewers. And new viewers become regular viewers and that means more visitors coming to see our (your) history. It's very exciting to social media analysis nerds like Moe. *Help us raise awareness with your finger - click "share" and "retweet" when you see one of our posts. This helps us reach a broader audience.*

## Go Big Give Gives Generously



We want to sincerely thank all of the generous members and museum-lovers who donated to the Go Big Give Campaign on our behalf. The Plainsman Museum sees hundreds of students pass through its doors each year - your thoughtful donations make it possible for the community and passing travelers to understand a little better the prairie life that has been so critical to the development of our nation. Thank you so much!

## Membership form now online!

Always wanted a membership or to give membership as gift to someone special? Now you can! From the comfort of your own home, or with your smart phone, visit [www.plainsmanmuseum.org](http://www.plainsmanmuseum.org), click on "Membership" in the menu bar at the top of the home page and pay with your credit card, or PayPal.

## Coming Events

### **JUNE 22-24**

Nimble Thimble Quilt Show

### **JULY 27-29**

Hamilton County Fair Photo Booth

### **AUGUST 8**

County Wide Education Appreciation Open House

### **AUGUST 20**

Open for Pre-eclipse visitors

### **SEPTEMBER 17**

A Day on the Farm

### **OCTOBER 8**

Theresa Payne Concert  
(HCF sponsored, free)

### **OCTOBER 22**

Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament

### **NOVEMBER 4**

Craft Fair

### **DECEMBER 1-31**

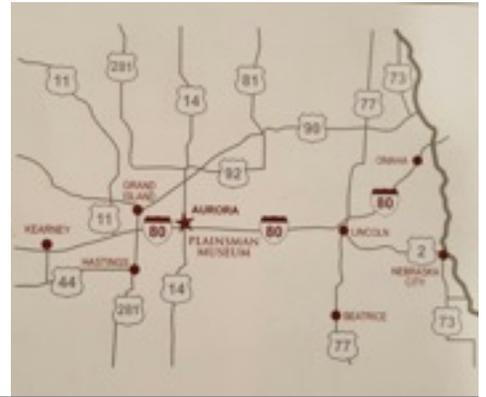
Winter Wonderland of Trees

### **DECEMBER 10**

Christmas Open House  
AHS Rhapsody / Impact Concert  
(HCF sponsored, free)

# PLAINSMAN MUSEUM CONTACT INFORMATION

LOCATION: 210 16TH STREET, AURORA NE 68818  
PHONE : 402-694-6531  
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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Paula Johnson  
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## STAFF

Executive Director: Tina Larson  
Building Supervisor: Norm Schachenmeyer  
Operations Assistant: DawnMarie Moe

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