

**Marcus Historical
Center**



President
Sherree Ogren

Vice President
Jim Nielsen

Secretary
Maxine Shea

Treasurer
Faith Specht

Other Board Members

Bonnie Husman
Linda Spieler
Mary Peterson

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**MARCUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
WINTER 2015 NEWSLETTER**

"The purpose of the Marcus Historical Society shall be to preserve for public benefit and education the heritage of our community."

*Our Dream Has Come True!
All of the bills are paid! We own the building!*



Jeff Patterson accepts the final payment for the new Historical Society building from Treasurer Faith Specht and President Sherree Ogren on Oct 29, 2014.

When the Marcus Historical Society was organized in 2007, we began working towards the goal of owning a building to collect and preserve Marcus antiques and keepsakes. Robert and Maxine Reed of Orlando FL, former Marcus residents, presented us with a large donation. The donation was large enough to allow us to purchase the old Danish Lutheran Church that is located at 208 Cedar St. The building was renamed the Reed Center in honor of Robert's parents, Carl and Hazel Reed.

The next step was to remodel and furnish the building. The first fundraiser for the Historical Society was the sale of Marcus calendars and playing cards. In August of 2008 there was a Grand Opening of the Reed Center during the Marcus fair. In a very short time the Reed Center was filled to capacity! It was a great starting place but the building was not handicap accessible. A new building was designed to be built on a lot at the Marcus Fairgrounds. By 2011 we were devoted

to make this dream come true and began lots of fundraising events! The new building was complete in August 2013 and we moved all of the historic memorabilia to the new Marcus Historical Building! A Grand Opening was held in August during the Marcus Fair. Over 800 people toured the new facility and were very impressed with the building and displays. The fundraising continued as there were still lots of bills and expenses. The generous donations kept coming from members, former residents of Marcus and surrounding communities, local organizations. Many businesses donated supplies and also labor. The donations combined with grants all allowed us to pay our debt! As of October 2014, we are debt free! THANK YOU to everyone who has been actively involved and those who have generously donated to the project! We will welcome donations for ongoing expenses and future projects.



LOOKING BACK ON EVENTS OF 2014

In July, Brian Nelson made arrangements with the Fair Board to add to the existing sign on Hwy 143. It was arranged to have additional information added to the Marcus Fair sign noting directions to the new Historical Society building.



The most recent and largest fundraising event of the year was the sale of "Book of Marcus Memories". This project was created and edited by Arlene Hollenbeck with the assistance of Linda Spieler and Maxine Shea. This book is a collection of 32 stories written by current and former Marcus residents. We ordered 250 books. The shipment arrived the day before the Marcus Fair so we were able to sell several during the fair! The books have been promoted at various events following the fair. Several were sold in September at the Grand Meadow Heritage Days and at the Kandy Korn Days at the Marcus Community Center. In October the Historical Society hosted the Chamber Coffee and the Cemetery Walk where more books were sold.

Pat Ducommun and Mary Peterson

Books are still available for purchase. They are \$15 each. If you would like one sent to you please add \$5 for shipping.

In November, the Catholic Daughter of America held their meeting and evening meal at our building. They took a tour of the building and purchased books.

The 15th Annual Cemetery Walk was held Oct 5th. It was a beautiful, warm, sunny day, which was perfect for the trolley ride and stroll through the cemetery. Jr. Pearson furnished the trolley and Russ Hansen served as the driver. Participants visited three gravesites in the Marcus Amherst cemetery and two in the Holy Name Cemetery. Then all gathered at the Methodist Church Social Hall to hear more detailed stories of each family. After the presentations, people could view family pictures and heirlooms, then enjoy refreshments. Thank you to Bev Nielsen for serving as chairperson of the kitchen committee, Phyllis Rapagani introducing the family presenters, and to Larry Rapagani for doing the video filming. Presenters included Barb McIntire representing the Sven Sjostrom family, Dan Ohlendorf representing the Cpl. Henry Ohlendorf family, and Jerry Pallesen representing the Nels Pallesen family. Ila O'Brien represented the Theodore and Charlotte Treinen family and Doug Lauters presented the history of Ray and Mary Lauters. Linda Wheeler and Nancy Hier have been doing a great job of organizing this event for many years!



We sold several books and decks of cards at the Hometown Christmas event in December. Our Christmas tree at the Community Center was decorated with paper snowflakes and photos of various snowstorms and blizzards that occurred in past years in Marcus



Election of Officers

This past September elections was held. Sherree Ogren will serve as president, Jim Nielsen as vice-president, Faith Specht as treasurer, and Maxine Shea as

secretary. Mary Peterson was elected to serve on the Board.

Do you ever have a long, dreary day with nothing to do or do you have guests who would be interested in learning about Marcus history? Give us a call and we will open the Historical Society building to read newspapers, scrapbooks, and obituaries. You could also watch videos of the Marcus Fairs, Centennials, Cemetery walks, and parades. There's a lot to see – Come visit and enjoy history!

The Marcus Historical Society building will be open to visitors the 2nd Sunday afternoon of each month from 2:00 until 4:00 P.M.

**You are always welcome to schedule a tour for yourself, your family, or a group.
Contact a board member to set up a time.**

Marcus Historical Society Membership

Yearly membership dues are very important to us as those dues help pay our operating expenses. Membership dues are to be paid in August at Marcus Fair time. Having dues paid at the same time every year makes it easier for everyone to remember when they need to update their membership. The Marcus Fair should be a good reminder. If you paid once or twice but then missed a year or two, that's ok, rejoin with an individual or family membership. Your yearly monetary gift is vital for us to continue to grow and preserve the heritage of Marcus.

We also have the names of people who donated at least \$100.00 engraved on our contributors plaque. This is not considered a membership fee but a donation to the Marcus Historical Society. We are still accepting the \$100.00 or more donations and will place your name or a name in memory of a loved one on this plaque. This is also a great help to our Historical Society

Membership dues guidelines.

INDIVIDUAL-----at least-----\$10.00 due yearly at Fair time
FAMILY-----at least-----\$15.00 due yearly at Fair time

If you wish to give more for your membership, both your donation and membership will be greatly appreciated. Please don't be just a financial supporter of this organization, join us for our meetings on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM in the Marcus Library.