

# MARCUS HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER

## FALL 2015

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

Greetings M.H.S. Members!

This year is really going fast! That means we have been having fun! We were involved in interesting event this year. The Marcus Museum Day was held Sunday May 31<sup>st</sup> from 11:00 A.M. until 5 P.M. at the Historical building. Besides our great collection of historical items, there are three other sites in our town that are preserving history also. One is the Jr. Pearson Barns, a site consisting of 3 barns just west of the horse arena. All are filled with beautifully restored Antique farm machinery, owned and restored by Jr. Pearson. Gerry Galles has restored an old building on Main Street and displays antique tractors in it. The former Wurth Hardware building has been remodeled and is now owned by Stan Scheitler. He has a beautiful collection of vintage cars. All three building were open to the public for a very large crowd to enjoy! The Historical Society hosted over 100 people from 20 different towns. We are hoping to make this an annual event.

The Marcus Fair, the big annual event in Marcus, is always fun. This year was extra special with the Westernaires coming from Golden, Colorado. This was a spectacular event with over 40 horses with teenage riders, plus coaches, drivers, workers and parents arriving in Marcus for three days. They presented two shows at the Horse Arena and rode in the fair parade. This is the third time they have performed at the fair. A big thanks to Nancy Hier for arranging these performances! This attraction and many others at the fair brought many visitors to our Historical building too. We sold several Marcus Memories books along with several 1971 Centennial books. There are not many 1971 books left! Several new members joined our organization and paid dues for 2016.

Many Marcus historical items were donated during the fair. A couple of large class pictures (the class of 1955 from Ardyce Deichmann and class of 1978 from Jerry Moser) were added to our school display area. The MHS also was given a lovely old treadle sewing machine from the Helen Nelson Cuthrell family.

### 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

#### Marcus Historical Society

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Marcus, IA 51035

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The Historical Society has another exciting addition. Just before the fair, a new display area was set up for genealogy. This area includes family histories, and cemetery maps with documentation of grave sites in both Marcus Amherst Cemetery and Holy Name Cemetery. All of the former Cemetery Walk events have also been documented and are available in scrapbooks. A very active Genealogy Research Committee has been formed consisting of; Linda Wheeler, Ila O'Brien, Pat Ducommun, Mary Peterson, and Sherree Ogren. They have had a few meetings to get this project organized. A computer was donated by the Marcus Public Library and a printer/scanner was donated by Pat Ducommun. Thanks to Larry Rapagnani for finding a suitable desk and setting up an area for the committee to work.



Another very interesting display area has been set up to “Remember When”. It contains history of Marcus Main Street buildings. Chris Ballard has been researching information for us on topics such as who built the building, what type of business was located there, and what events took place. She has made a large map of Main Street which has been placed on a table in our building. ! Everything about “what used to be” and “what is now in place” is documented. She has spent a lot of time and effort to complete this very interesting and informative display!

A decision has been reached regarding our first building- The Reed Center. We have discussed this issue many, many times. Rather than going through the difficult effort of raising a lot of money to move this building, we made the decision to sell it. We removed the signage, “the Reed Center” and “Marcus Historical Building” from the front of the building and placed them inside of our new building. With the help of the Farmer’s State Bank and Real Estate Agency a buyer has been found. We will always remember the Reed Center as the beginning of our Big Dream!

On Sunday, Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Cemetery Walk. Our first program was in 1999 and was started by Nancy Hier, Margaret Dorr, and Lulu Grauer. It was then known as the Lighted Cemetery Walk and was held on a Saturday evening in October closest to the full moon. It is now held on the first Sunday afternoon in October. This year four families will be presented. The walk will begin at 1:30 P.M. at the Marcus Amherst Cemetery and will continue at the Holy Name Cemetery. After a short introduction at the gravesite we

will continue to Grace United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall for a program describing each of the honored pioneers along with a display of memorabilia from the chosen ancestors. A trolley belonging to Jr. Pearson and pulled by a tractor owned by Russ Hansen will be available for anyone wishing to ride the journey from the church and back again. Parking is also available at the cemetery. While walking through these cemeteries one ponders the struggles and triumphs these pioneers encountered to make out community the great place we live in now. This is a collection of fascinating histories will be an interesting and enlightening outing. We hope it will inspire you to learn more about your own ancestors and pasts. Even if weather conditions are unfavorable, we will still have the program at the church. Please join us for our 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk!

Those to be honored this year are: Ambrose Heinis, Merle Weicht, John Bindner, and Mary Ellen Kelly.



Marcus Historical Society  
2015 Official Ballot

Please vote for 4 people to serve on the Historical Society Board

The board is composed of 7 members. Board members serve a 2 year term. Listed on the ballot are 5 names, you need to vote for 4 and only 4 to fill the positions up for re-election this year.

\_\_\_\_\_Julie Sand

\_\_\_\_\_Ila O'Brien

\_\_\_\_\_Pat Ducommun

\_\_\_\_\_Linda Spieler

\_\_\_\_\_Faith Specht

For your vote to count this ballot must be returned by Sept. 15, 2015. Please send the ballot to  
Marcus Historical Society

Attn: Ballot enclosed

Box 321

Marcus, IA 51035

### 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.