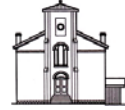




*"Where History Meets on 10<sup>th</sup> Street"*



# Marion Historical Society Newsletter

Including news from *Granger House Museum* and the *Marion Heritage Center*

October 2008

Marion, Iowa

*The Marion Historical Society, Inc., was formed to discover, interpret, and preserve the unique history of the region, and to provide activities for the instruction of citizens, visitors, the community and the surrounding area regarding these historical treasures.*

## **Events in Brief:**

*Sunday, October 5 – "Two Men and Their Bank" Heritage Center, @ 2 p.m.*

*Saturday, October 25 – "Ushers Scary" Granger House & Heritage Center, @ 6:30-10:00 p.m.*

*Sunday, October 26 – "Halloween for Kids" Granger House, @ 2p.m.*

*Friday, October 31 – Ushers Scary, Granger House & Heritage Center, @ 6:30-10:00 p.m*

*Saturday, November 1 – Earl Granger's Birthday Mystery, Granger House, @ 6 p.m.*

*November 16 – "Hats, Hats, Hats!" Marion Heritage Center, @ 2 p.m.*

## **Usher's Scary Halloween with the Marion Historical Society**

The floods of last June will continue to haunt us for quite a while but here's one scary after effect to look forward to... "Usher's Scary on the Road!" The Marion Historical Society is teaming up with Usher's Ferry staff and volunteers to host two nights of scary fun. The Granger House and Marion Heritage Center will be the places to be for goose bumps and more on **Saturday, October 25 and Friday, October 31 from 6:30 – 10:00 pm.** Granger House will be the scene for séances, ghost stories, and a haunted house tour while the Heritage Center will offer a spooktacular, haunting of Old Uptown Marion. Visitors must be aged 13 or over to attend these evenings. Admission will be \$8.00 at Granger House and \$4.00 at the Marion Heritage Center. (Proceeds from the events will be split between Marion Historical Society and Usher's Ferry.) **P.S.** We very much need your help as volunteers to help us make these two evenings a success. (3 volunteers are needed at the Heritage Center and 4 at Granger House on each night) We hope that you will join us either as a volunteer or a guest for what promises to be an appropriately scary evening!

## **Halloween for Kids**

It's a Halloween Party at the Granger House just for the under 13 crowd! Ghostly tales and tricky treats will be served for the younger crowd (ages 4 – 12) at Granger House on Sunday, October 26 from 2 – 4:00 p.m. Enjoy an afternoon of ghost stories, games and such treats as worm sandwiches, witches' fingers and monster eyeballs! Costumes are not necessary, but can be worn. Admission fees: \$5.00 for children/ \$1.00 for adults.

## **"Old Uptown Marion"**

Our new exhibit "Old Uptown Marion" opened at the Heritage Center during the Swamp Fox Festival and what a terrific exhibit it is! Complete with its own little village, the exhibit tells the history of Marion's uptown businesses in the years from 1839 to 1960. Stop by to window shop at some typical stores of the past, including grocery & hardware stores, a photographer's and a hat shop!

The first of our "Old Uptown Marion" programs will highlight banks and hats. Phil Morris and John Vernon recently wrote a reminiscence about their years working at the 1<sup>st</sup> National bank called "**Two Men and their Bank.**" They will be at the Marion Heritage Center on **Sunday, October 5 at 2:00 p.m.,** to talk about their memories and the bank's history.

On **Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.,** it will be all about "**Hats, Hats, Hats!**" It used to be that no respectable person would leave home without a hat and now most hats that you see are worn backwards, if at all! Margaret Wolf of Washington, Iowa will here to show and talk about hats of the past. (Hats are not required but the best chapeau will win a prize!)

## **Art by Friends & Neighbors**

Congratulations go out to the 2008 "Art by Your Friends & Neighbors" exhibit "People's Choice" favorites: Fred Easker's "Wexford Morning", "Jazzy" Gorman's "Eye on You" and Karen Hoyt's "The Home Place". Each artist received a \$75.00 check from Hills Bank and Trust, generous sponsor of this annual exhibit. Thanks also go out to Jay Kacena who once again did a great job of organizing this annual exhibit.

## **Earl Granger's Birthday Mystery**

Get out your costumes! Earl Granger is celebrating his birthday and you're invited to attend. Saturday, November 1, 6 – 9:00 p.m. at the Granger House. Heavy hors d' oerves and beverages will be served and...A MYSTERY will be solved!!!! Contact Barb Feller (393-7052) by October 21 if you are interested in participating. Seating is limited to 15 persons. Cost is \$20.00 a piece. **Please call 319-393-7052 by October 15 to RSVP. Leave a message with your name and # of people who will be attending.**

### **“Free the Fresco”**

Step by step and inch by inch the “Communication by Mail” has been making its way to the Marion Heritage Center. Since it was moved from the old post office building to the Area Ambulance building earlier this past summer, Tony Rajer and his assistants spent numerous hours cleaning and cutting away a ton or so of the backing wall. In August a team of volunteers mixed 25 bags of concrete and attached a custom built steel frame to the back of the fresco, adding a ton or so back. RJ Construction has completed the pedestal that will support the fresco on the lower level of the Center. Current plans are to have moved the fresco from the Area Ambulance building to the Heritage Center on Thursday, October 2. By the time that you read this, “Communication by Mail” should be in place at the Center and ready for the next phase which includes framing the fresco.

### **Granger House Hours**

Granger House concluded its summer season this at the end of September but it won't be too long before its holiday season begins. Currently the House is available for tours by appointment only and it will be closed from November 1 – 28<sup>th</sup> so that it can be decorated for Christmas. Visitors are always delighted to see the house dressed in its festive best and this is truly a testament to all of the wonderful efforts put forth by historical society members and volunteers. If you would like to help decorate the house for the Christmas season, please, call Barb at Granger House, 377-6672. Granger House will be open again for tours on the weekends between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

### **Holiday Gift Ideas!**

When your thoughts turn to holiday gift ideas, don't forget to think local! The Marion Historical Society has several ideas for you to consider this year. The Marion Historic Preservation Commission's newest book by Judy Hull, “Around the Park, Marion Merchants” is available at the Heritage Center, as are previous Commission books. The Marion Throw, depicting local scenes, makes for a nice lap warmer or a pretty nice wall hanging. We also have the DVD “Marion, One of Many, One of a Kind” and a few commemorative Christmas bulbs from years past. Another great gift idea for your favorite history buff is a one year membership in the Marion Historical Society. A whole year of Marion history at the Granger House and Heritage Center – what could be nicer?

### **Thinking of Giving?**

While we hope that you'll remember the Marion Historical Society as you make your end of the year donations to worthy causes, please, don't forget the many cultural institutions that have been badly damaged in the floods of 2008. They have contributed so much to this area in the past and they very much need your help now!

### ***New and Renewing Members***

*(Since July 2008)*

*The following people have renewed or become new members in the Society since our last newsletter:*

*Thank you to all members, donors and sponsors for your valuable support!*

*Don Hoskins Onalee & Milton Arnold Ron & Marian Wheeler Katie & Ed Mulholland  
Walker & Linda Kelly Larry & Darlene Lerch George & Charlotte Machacek  
Dick & Iris Snyder Rollin & Loraine Oswald Diane Eimen Sue Galvin Beth Livengood  
Mark Klopfenstein Cheri Dickey Scott Bizek Voanne & Marion Hansen Judy Hull*

### ***We couldn't do it without you!***

*The Marion Historical Society Board of Directors and Staff*

*Marjorie Reynolds: President, Vic Klopfenstein: Vice President, Mark Morgan: Secretary, Barb Robison: Treasurer*

*Other Members on the Board of Directors: Jim Rosche, Paul Rehn, Sam Dillon, Granger House Director: Barbara Feller, Marion Heritage Center Coordinator & Newsletter Editor: Karen Clark-Hansen, Membership Administration: Eula Wood*

**You may contact us at: P. O. Box 753, Marion, IA 52302-0753, at (319) 377-6672, or 447-6377**

*Please remember to let us know when you add or change your e-mail address or phone number, for we often let our members know what is happening through these means. Your privacy is respected by the Society: your personal information is used only for internal correspondence. And, as always, thank you for letting us know what you think concerning YOUR Historical Society!*

