

DC Genealogy Society searches for a new home

By Karen Spurgeon, Publisher

The Davis County Genealogy Society has been housed in the Old Elementary Building for 12 years, but recently learned it would be losing its home and must relocate.

The old school building was recently sold and the new owner will be shutting off utilities in the three-story wing early next year.

Genealogy Society officers Vicki Houk, Pat Howk, and Sue Spilman met with the Bloomfield Democrat last week to discuss the dilemma and put out a plea for public help in locating a suitable space for the historical treasures they are trying to preserve.

Looking around the former third-grade classroom that is now filled with documents and photographs, it quickly became obvious a climate-controlled space of around 600 square feet or more would be needed to preserve and allow accessibility to these treasures. The facility would need to be handicapped accessible and have access to toilet facilities.

The Genealogy Society is currently housing:

- many volumes of bound Bloomfield Newspapers.
- transcribed correspondence including a set of 100 books titled "War of Rebellion." This collection includes letters and diary entries from the Civil War Era.
- volumes of family histories that have been donated including the Sloan Bowling, Veatch, Houk, Howk, Latta, Gandy,



Sue Spilman, Pat Howk, and Vicki Houk are shown in the current room at the Old Elementary that houses the Society's historical documents. Utilities will soon be shut off in that room and the Society must find new facilities.

McReynolds, Taylor, Steckel, and Glassburner families. "We're always accepting more of these," Howk said.

- plat books from scattered years going back to 1875.
- old land maps.
- maps showing the locations of country schools.
- maps of cemetery locations.
- old eighth grade graduation records from Davis County's country schools.
- directories for country schools, student names and attendance records, teachers' names, and board members.
- Dee Altheide's book of school records.
- yearbooks from the 1920s on.
- files of family research. (After doing research for families, the ladies make a copy of everything before sending

information back to the requestor.)

- boxes of old photographs. (One of these boxes came from the Pulaski Mennonite community).
- microfilm of historical records.
- probate notices.

The Genealogy Society has a couple of computers for public research and a subscription to ancestry.com for family research. Newspapers.com is also available at no charge as well as links to Advantage Archives for Appanoose and Wapello County Newspapers for research.

Of course, the Bloomfield Democrat's archives, <https://bloomfield.historyarchives.online/>, is also available.

"We have knowledgeable staff working a couple days a week to help people do the research and locate the informa-

tion they are looking for," Howk said.

The Genealogy Society is currently open from 1-4 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays. The women said the public may make appointments at other times by calling 641-777-4606 (Vicki Houk), 641-208-3161 (Pat Howk), or 641-664-2223 (Sue Spilman).

The women said the Society also needs more members and financial support. Membership is currently about 25 people, but used to be around 75-80. Annual dues for the organization are \$17.50. Expenses include rent, internet money, and possibly utilities.

If anyone has any ideas on a location for the Genealogy Society, please contact the women listed above or Edward Jr. Reese at 641-208-5160



Is life imitating art or is art imitating life?

Davis County Community School District employees Natasha Schafer and Therese Sharp pull double duty as associates and school crossing guards at the intersection of Washington and North Streets. On Halloween they truly embodied their positions in traffic control.

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New library sign recognizes National Register status

The above plaque was installed on the exterior wall of the Bloomfield Public Library last week after being requested by Library Director Anne Tews and approved by the Library Board of Directors. The library was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 2015, but signage had never been erected. Lois Priester, who was heading up the library renovation and expansion project at the time, asked Historian Molly Nauman to write the application for National Historic Register status to make it easier to access grant funds for the extensive remodeling project.

NOVEMBER Specialty Schedule

CLOSED NOVEMBER 27 & 28 FOR THANKSGIVING

Catherine Durlinger, ARNP Allergy Monday-Thursday, Each Week
Dr. Homedan Orthopedics November 5, 19, and 26
Ashleigh Mathews, ARNP Iowa Heart November 6
Dr. Pitt General Surgery November 3, 6, 17, and 20
Pain Clinic November 3, 4, 10, 17, and 24
Dr. Holte Podiatry November 21
Dr. Whitman ENT November 7 and 21

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