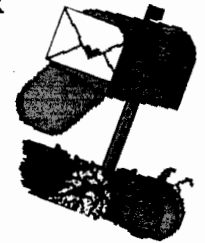




September 2015

**URBANDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**  
**4010 70<sup>TH</sup> STREET**  
**URBANDALE, IA 50322**  
**(515) 270-2917**  
**www.urbandalehistoricalsociety.org**  
**FALL 2015**



### September Meeting

Monday, September 14th  
 6:00 Pot Luck  
 7:00 Program

The program year for the Urbandale Historical Society begins in September. Meetings are traditionally held the first Monday evening of the month, but because of Labor Day the first event will be held on Monday, September 14th.

For those interested, a potluck supper will begin at 6:00 p.m. Plan to bring food to share and your own table service.

People wanting to come for just the program can join us at 7:00.

The patriotic program "Freedom" is a one-man multi-character dramatic presentation by Brian Bopp, Children and Family Coordinator at Aldersgate Methodist Church. Five soldier characters from American history are depicted through stories and slight costume changes in an entertaining performance that provides a salute to all veterans. Bring your family and invite others to attend.

### What's Ahead?

There will be a program meeting on Monday, November 2nd at 7:00. The program topic has not been finalized. In October watch for information in the Urbandale section of the Des Moines Register.

To get updates you check the answering machine at the house 270-2917 or go on our web site ([info@urbandalehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@urbandalehistoricalsociety.org)) closer to the dates of the events.

### October Meeting

Monday, October 5th

Tone Brothers Spices will be the subject of the meeting on Monday, October 5th at 7:00 p.m.

In 1875 Brothers Jehiel and I.E. Tone began a spice and coffee business in Des Moines. In 1888 they pioneered individual spices which had traditionally been sold to grocers in barrels and scooped out for customers. Years later the paperboard containers were replaced by the familiar orange and black tin cans that were found in all of our pantries. Millions of pounds of spices arrive annually from all over the world and are processed and packaged in the world's largest spice factory located in Ankeny. John Tone will describe how the company has grown and plans for the future.

Refreshments will follow!

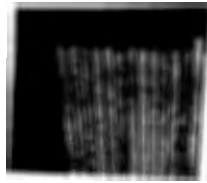
### Fall Open House

The annual Fall Open House will be held on Sunday, October 4th from 2:00 - 4:00. Come and view the displays in the newly dedicated Wayne Robbins Barn. Tour the Olmsted-Urban House and join us for refreshments. You are encouraged to ask questions and share information about our local history.

### Christmas Holiday

Late in November and early December volunteers will join in decorating the Olmsted-Urban House for the traditional Holiday Open House on Sunday, December 6th from 2-4. Bring a friend that afternoon to view the beautiful decorations, the old-time toys, and share the festive refreshments.

## Fall Bus Trip



The Fall Bus Trip will head northeast to Tama County on Tuesday, October 13th.

The first stop will be the Matchstick Museum in Gladbrook. On display are a number of the works of Patrick Aston, matchstick sculptor, who has created dozens of wooden models and sculptures using millions of matchsticks and gallons of glue. Many models have historical significance such as the U. S. Capitol, Space Challenger, USS Iowa, and the Iowa Governor's mansion. Also on display are drawings and plans for many of the models plus tools and equipment used in construction.

Then on to Traer to the Historical Museum and the Salt and Pepper Shaker Gallery. Ruth Rasmussen began collecting salt and pepper shakers in 1946. Now more than 16,000 different sets are on display making this the second largest collection in the world. Lunch will be served at the 1901 Chop House.

Another stop will be the Restonic Mattress Company, located in Toledo. The company is an industry leader in the research and development of all natural latex and memory foam sleep technologies. With a 70 year history, the locally handmade mattresses from the company have received consumer awards.

The cost of the trip is \$80, which includes lunch and all fees. A check mailed to the Urbandale Historical Society will hold your place. Please mark "Bus Tour" on the envelope and enclose an emergency contact and phone number with your check.

The bus will load in the parking lot of the Olmsted-Urban House (4010 70th Street), and leave promptly at 7:00 a.m.

The tour is being planned by Bob Simon and Norm Huitt, or you can contact Janice Winey (276-2752) for more information.

## Barn Dedication

A highlight of the Ice Cream Social was the dedication of the barn to past president Wayne Robbins. A sign has been placed on the front of the barn and a special commemorative plaque featuring Wayne's picture was placed just inside the Barn's entrance.

The inscription reads:

*On this day, June 28th 2015 we dedicate this barn to Wayne Robbins, a long time Urbandale citizen. Wayne was instrumental in the building of this barn. Wayne exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism and has given countless hours to the restoration, improvement and upkeep of the Olmsted-Urban House, barn, and its property. Wayne served on the Board for many years and served as President from 2001 until January 2015. It is with great pleasure we make this dedication to Wayne Robbins who has given so much to the Urbandale community. Members of the Urbandale Historical Society*

Wayne and his family were able to attend the dedication and visit the barn, and expressed their appreciation for the recognition.

## Punch on the Porch

What will the weather be like for October 30th? For the last two years the "Punch on the Porch" observance was cancelled. Janice Winey, Kay Readinger, and their helpers are planning to serve the traditional orange punch starting at 6:00 p.m. on Beggar's Night, weather permitting.



## History of the Barn

1991 The Urbandale Historical Society President and Board members begin planning for a barn to be constructed

1992 Architect's drawings are obtained and fund raising begins.

2001 Barn is completed.

2007 Addition was built on the north side to house more displays.

2015 Dedication of the "Wayne Robbins Barn".

## A Big Thanks for the Ice Cream Social Volunteers

The Ice Cream Social was again a success thanks to the efforts of many people.

To meet the promise of "homemade" ice cream, the ingredients and recipe were the same as that used by Wayne Robbins through the years, though the actual freezing was done with special equipment operated on site by Tom Foster.

Special thanks to Tom and his wife Patti for doing this for the Urbandale Historical Society.

Ingredients for the ice cream were donated by Fareway Food Stores, Hy-Vee, and Hiland Dairy and obtained by Norm Huitt. Ice was donated by Quik Trip.

Calls were made to members and friends, and nearly 60 baked goods were donated. Even the Urbandale High School Alumni group donated six pies in appreciation for being given space on the lawn for them to sell their alumni T shirts.

Willing volunteers and family members were scheduled to cut pies, carry items out to the serving tables, dip ice cream, replenish supplies, and clean tables.

Music was provided by "Banjo Revival" – Clancy Lamoureux and Ted Michelfelder.

Several members spent the afternoon serving as host for visitors wanting to see the Olmsted-Urban House. Bob Simon answered question in the barn.

Carol Lee Riekenberg took pictures during the afternoon and of the exhibits in the barn, and prepared a special memory book for the Historical Society's records.

The weather was sunny, with rain holding off until later in the afternoon, and many families came out to make this an enjoyable afternoon.

Thanks to everyone for helping to make this a successful fundraiser.



## Members Remembered

MARIAN CHASE was herself part of Urbandale history. She was a long time Junior High math teacher in Urbandale. After her retirement she continued to be active in the community. She was elected to the Urbandale School Board and worked tirelessly on school bond issues. Marian enjoyed helping with our plant sale and attending the ice cream socials. She passed away in 2013.

ROSEMARY MICHAEL was interested in Urbandale history because her husband Lester's ancestors were early residents of the area. She enjoyed coming to the meetings and is remembered for baking angel food cakes for the potlucks and the ice cream socials. She lived for many years in the family home on 67th Street. Her final years were spent in a care facility in Madrid before her death in November 2014

KAROLYN HATCH worked many years for Urbandale Schools first as a secretary at the Middle School and later for the Superintendent. After her retirement, she volunteered at Living History Farms near her home where she and her husband, Carter, lived for many years. Karolyn shared her interest in local history with others in the community. She passed away this June at home.

MIRIAM CLINE played a unique role in Urbandale's history. As a citizen of the growing community, Miriam became one of the first city hostesses for the Urbandale Women's Club and called on numerous newcomers to the area. She served on the City council for 12 years. She was also known for her work in Girl Scouts, United Church of Christ, and Senior citizens. She was named 1985 Citizen of the Year. She was a loyal supporter of the Historical Society until her death on July 5th at Ramsey Village.

LEE COUCH and his wife Mickey were named Citizens of the Year for 1999. Lee was particularly known for his work with the Urbandale Church of Christ and many service projects of the Lions Club. He also volunteered with many other local groups, such as DUNA, Amanda the Panda, and the Food Pantry. Lee passed away on July 6th.

JOY PUCKETT was another long time member. Although she was unable to attend meetings, she expressed interest and support for our restoration projects. She had paid membership dues for many years and even directed that memorial contributions could be given to the Urbandale Historical society following her death on August 6th.

Although she was not a member of the Urbandale Historical Society another person who will be missed is PAULINE WIPPERMAN. She had been a member of the Rural Area Daughters of Ceres and was very knowledgeable about local history. She worked with Berneda Milligan to get the newest Urbandale Elementary School named "Webster" after the early rural school which had been located on the site. Pauline died last November.

All of these individuals will be greatly missed for their contributions to our community!

Clip and Save

### Important Dates

- 
- September 6th - House open to the public
  - September 14th - Potluck Supper (6:00)  
& Program (7:00)
  - October 4th - Fall Open House and Barn  
Display 2-4 pm
  - October 5th - Program Meeting 7pm
  - October 13th - Fall Bus Trip 7 am
  - October 30th - Punch on the Porch
  - November 1st - Informal Open House
  - November 2nd - Program meeting 7pm
  - December 6th - Holiday Open House  
2-4pm
- 



This edition of the newsletter was prepared by Beth and Gene Haigh from information compiled by Virginia Gee and committee chairs.