

## **History of the Floyd County Historical Society**

Recorded 2023 by Museum Director Mckenna Lloyd

An interest in creating a Floyd County Historical Society was first expressed by attendees at the Floyd County Federated Clubs meeting on February 18, 1952. Charlotte Magdsick, member of the St. Charles Women's Club, introduced the formation of a county historical society as a county project to be taken on by members of the clubs involved with the Floyd County Federated Clubs. The members of the Floyd County Federated Clubs motioned to approve the formation of a committee to create a "society for the preservation of data and relics of historical value." On June 4, 1953, Mrs. Leonard Dodge, president of the Floyd County Federated Clubs held a meeting to promote the organization of a historical society. At this meeting the federated clubs were authorized to go forward in forming a Floyd County Historical Society. On October 29, 1953 officers for the new historical society were elected. They were: John G. Legel, Charles City, president; Charlotte Magdsick, Charles City, 1<sup>st</sup> vice president; I.W. Edie, Rudd, 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president; Mrs. Selby Russell, Rockford, secretary; Mrs. Ray Sweet, Colwell, treasurer. On April 29, 1952 Ethel Mae Krueger was appointed executive secretary and the constitution and by-laws for the Floyd County Historical Society were adopted.

The original goals of the society were to "source material on the history of the county, bibliographies of prominent families, general collection of historical and preservation of all historical objects and sites in the county suitable to be marked." The membership fee was \$1.00 per year and lifetime memberships could be purchased for \$20.00.

In 1954 the historical society helped with the Floyd County Centennial by writing for a booklet, arranging

antique displays for store windows, and setting up a collection of items in Guild Hall.<sup>1</sup>

Also in 1954, the historical society tried to obtain the empty Weather Bureau building but that building was gifted to the school system by the U.S. government on September 13, 1954. Sometime prior to 1961 the historical society also approached the city library board about having historical materials along with a room for the Mooney art collection.<sup>2</sup> This idea failed.

In 1961 John Legel, former historical society president, donated his 80-year-old drugstore building at 107 N. Main St. to be used as a museum building. On April 21, 1963 Legel's Drugstore opened as the Floyd County Museum. All the items in the drugstore had been well-preserved so the first floor of the museum remained the same as when it was a drugstore and other exhibits were installed in the building along with the drugstore set up. Items were donated to the museum from many pioneer homes in the area. Bernice Lambert was president at the time of the drugstore donation and museum set up. C.R. Jones, grandson of B.W. Jones, was in Charles City when the historical society was working on arranging the museum and he spent many hours helping with the display set up. C.R. Jones, Bernice Lambert, and John Legel were the primary individuals responsible for setting up the museum displays.

According to a map of the Floyd County Historical Museum made by John G. Legel on January 10, 1964, displays were diverse and visitors could walk through the first and second floor and a balcony. Upon entering the museum, visitors would first see the cigar counter, soda fountain and office as they were when the drugstore was in

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<sup>1</sup> Guild Hall was a building used for various club meetings at 506 Kelly St.

<sup>2</sup> In 1961 the library (now the Arts Center) did open a room for the Mooney Collection.

operation. The first few exhibits on the first floor focused on the Oliver Corporation, Salsbury Laboratories, and Klinkel family items. The Oliver display was put together by George Gregg<sup>3</sup> who was promotion chair for the historical society. Past that were displays for the D.A.R., Cheney family, and cards. Across from those displays was the pharmacy counter. Also in the museum when it first opened were displays containing items from around the world. According to the map, on the first floor there was a display for Peru and Mexico.<sup>4</sup> They also displayed documents, Indian relics, and rocks. In the back of the first floor a “county store” display was set up. The second floor of the museum showed a parlor, bedrooms, kitchen, and bathroom of the past. The surrey with the fringe on top and Rural Free Delivery wagon were both on the second floor. There was also a school room display. Old newspapers were also on display on the second floor and on the balcony was the research library.

When the museum was first organized the items taken in as donations and loans were mostly recorded in a ledger book that is still kept at the Floyd County Museum. Museum workers used a system of collection numbering that followed the formula “year-donor number of the year” with the name of the donor and did not always record what or how many items each donor gave.

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<sup>3</sup> George Gregg (1907-1970) worked at the Oliver Corporation until 1970. He was instrumental in getting back the 30-60 Hart-Parr tractor that, at the time of his death and while he was with the historical society, was on display outside the courthouse.

<sup>4</sup> In 1962 and 63 a large collection of various items were sent to the historical society by Irma Hecht. She sent these items to the museum from California. Many of the items had no relation to Floyd County whatsoever and were mainly souvenirs her husband, Harold Hecht had picked up throughout his international travels over the years from the 1920-1940s or so. Hecht had grown up in Charles City but never lived here as an adult.

On September 25, 1975 the society obtained the former Salsbury Laboratories Building from the Simmons Company of New York. At that point, the museum's collection had outgrown the Legel's Drugstore building on Main St. and needed a new permanent residence. Mark Ferguson<sup>5</sup> was instrumental in making arrangements for the historical society to acquire the Salsbury building. From 1975 until his death in 1978, Ferguson was involved in getting the building ready for the museum to move in.

In 1976, after the museum obtained the Salsbury building and as they were preparing it for the move, the county celebrated the Bicentennial. On May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1976 the Floyd County Historical Society and the Floyd County Bicentennial Commission commemorated a time capsule to be sealed in a steel box and cemented into an alcove on the first floor of the Salsbury building. Most of the contents of the time capsule were paper material pertaining to the Bicentennial. The intention was for the time capsule to be opened in the year 2076. It is unclear exactly where and what alcove the time capsule was cemented into.

In 1979 the Charles City Arts Council and the Floyd County Historical Society got together and saved the popcorn wagon from relocation to Minneapolis. At that time run by Harold Staudt and his family, the popcorn wagon had long been a staple in Charles City's Central Park but Staudt had decided to sell and the first offer came from a buyer planning to take the popcorn wagon to the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. When Ken Johnson, historical society board member, and Ron Schlick, president of the arts council found out they quickly got to work fundraising to save the popcorn wagon. The historical society and the arts council succeeded and the popcorn wagon was purchased jointly and remained in Central Park. In 1987 the

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<sup>5</sup> Mark Ferguson (1900-1978) was president of the historical society from 1972 until his death. He and his wife ran Charles City Laundry and Dry Cleaners from 1936 until 1978.

Floyd County Historical Society bought out the Arts Council's share in the popcorn wagon and it became totally owned by the historical society. Until 1996 the wagon was leased to families and individuals to be operated in Central Park.

On October 1, 1979 the historical society began moving the museum into the 500 Gilbert St. location. Before this could be done the top two floors were renovated. Vera Brenton<sup>6</sup> oversaw the move from the 107 N Main St. building to the 500 Gilbert St. building. Many volunteers helped Brenton, including members of the Beta Sigma Phi sorority who helped with packing. The new museum opened to the public on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 1980 with sixteen rooms completed and open for viewing on the first floor. By May of 1981 there were forty rooms on both the first and second floor open for touring. The Legel's Drugstore set up on the first floor was complete in 1981. Also on the first floor were period rooms representing a home of the past, a general store set up, a Hart-Parr room, a Salisbury Room, a special documents room, and a special collections room with art objects, Native American items, wood carvings, fine porcelain, and textiles. An electrical exhibits room, dentist office, country school room, barber shop, medical display rooms, clothing display rooms, musical instrument rooms, office equipment, stones and masonry, quilts, old country church set up, the railroad room, library, Floyd County town rooms, and the Legel-Andres collection room were all on the second floor.

On December 18, 1979 the Charles City Model Railroad Club signed an agreement with the historical society for use of a room in the museum building. This

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<sup>6</sup> Vera M. Brenton (1901-1997) was president of the historical society from 1981 to 1984. She was involved with the historical society for many years. Vera Brenton was married to Harry Brenton who was the mayor of Charles City at the time of the 1968 tornado. Vera was also an antique dealer and was involved in many other local organizations.

room has remained the railroad club's since then. The model railroad display is meant to look similar to an earlier Charles City. Over the years the railroad club and the museum collaborated on different events including Pioneer Day/Heritage Fest.

In 1983 progress was made to open the basement to the public with more exhibits. In the basement were displayed farm implements, horse-drawn means of transportation, and the log cabin was installed. The Mutchler log cabin was built in 1852 by J.C. Mutchler who was an early pioneer to Floyd County. The log cabin originally was on the east edge of Floyd, essentially between Floyd and Charles City, but the cabin had, by 1983, already been moved once to a park in Floyd. The log cabin was donated to the historical society by Vera and Margaret Fluent on March 9, 1964. It was moved from its original location sometime after that by the historical society with the help of the Lions Club.

In October of 1984 the Floyd County Historical Society Endowment Fund was incorporated by Vera Brenton and Karl J. Horn, the President and Attorney for the historical society.

1984 was the first year Pioneer Day was introduced. This was the first iteration of what is now Heritage Fest. On June 29th and July 1st Andres Park and the museum were full of special activities including "a Flea Market with antiques, arts and crafts and an ice cream social," according to the July 1984 issue of the Floyd County Heritage, at the time titled Floyd County Historical Society Museum News. Vera Brenton, the then president of the historical society, wrote the Museum News and interestingly remarked that on July 15th and August 5th in 1984 the museum hosted more special activities like hand corn-shelling, butter churning, washing clothes, spinning, weaving, and wood-carving. These activities would be included in future Pioneer Days. The following year, historical society president Kenneth Johnson wrote for the October issue of the Museum News

that 1985's Pioneer Days "seem[ed] to have been a success." Apparently, that event was also videotaped and added to the museum's archive. At some point the museum transitioned to holding Pioneer Day as just a single day event and at different times it was held in conjunction with Charles City's Art-a-Fest. Most Pioneer Days were held on a Sunday. For several years the Floyd County Museum also organized the Century of Tractor Power events biennially in the summer but even with an added summer event to coordinate, Pioneer Day was still held.

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1993 the historical society hired Scott Lamprich as museum director.<sup>7</sup> That year Mary Ann Townsend took the position of museum collections manager. Mary Ann had been involved at the museum in various capacities since 1979. Before Lamprich was hired her title had been museum manager.<sup>8</sup> Also in 1993, the museum "courtyard" was sealed and a wheelchair lift was added, creating the new museum entrance where it is today. In October 1995 Lamprich resigned the position of museum director. Frank McKinney was hired as Lamprich's replacement and began working at the museum on January 2, 1996.

On February 1<sup>st</sup>, 1996 the Salsbury Laboratory building was officially put on the National Register of Historic Places. The paperwork was submitted by museum director Scott Lamprich and historical society board member Helen Webster. This was a project undertaken by

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<sup>7</sup> Scott Lamprich was from Collinsville, Illinois originally and received a bachelor's degree from McKendree College and a master's from Sangamon State University. Before coming to Charles City he was the director for a museum in Alton, Illinois.

<sup>8</sup> According to conversations had between myself and current board members, the reason Scott Lamprich might have been hired was because Mary Ann did not have formal museum or history education. In 1993 it seems like she was essentially demoted to collections manager but perhaps her pay was the same or better. LOOK INTO THAT

the Charles City Historic Preservation Commission which was chaired by Scott Lamprich at the time.

In the spring of 1996 Frank McKinney began a project to better catalogue the museum collection.<sup>9</sup> He and Mary Ann Townsend determined that some items in the museum collection were deteriorating from light and insect exposure. A freezer was purchased to deal with the insect infested items. At this time the storage area for clothing and textiles were designated (now referred to as the hanging clothing room and the textile room). In the April 1996 newsletter McKinney wrote: “we have now begun a very detailed inventory of all artifacts in the collection. Detailed descriptions are written on artifact worksheets, records are pulled and transferred to the worksheet, accession numbers are associated with an object and items without numbers are assigned numbers and accessioned into the collection. All of this information will be placed on a new computer catalogue database.”

The historical society acquired the Hart-Parr 20-40 and the Little Devil in July 1996. The two tractors were a part of the Don Sellers Estate auction in Booker, Texas. Before the auction Frank McKinney and others fundraised \$150,000 for bidding on the tractors. McKinney and his wife, Jane, who worked as a receptionist at the museum, travelled to the auction in Texas to bid on the tractors. They were successful and the tractors returned to Charles City for \$98,000—the 20-40 went for \$65,000 and the Little Devil was \$33,000.

In 1996 the historical society decided to stop leasing the popcorn wagon to locals to operate in Central Park. Instead, the wagon would be operated by the society itself.

In 1997, construction on the tractor wing began and was complete in 1998. This addition added 5,000 square feet to the museum building and was intended to house the larger collections items, namely the tractors. Frank

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<sup>9</sup> Timeline based on descriptions from the April 1996 newsletter.



McKinney was the museum director when the tractor wing was added and Bob Baron was the historical society president.

June 1998 was the first time the Century of Tractor Power event was held in Charles City. This was an event not technically organized by the Floyd County Historical Society but Mary Ann was a leader in getting the event going, along with the Charles City Chamber of Commerce.

In 2000 Frank McKinney decided to decommission and retire the Charles City popcorn wagon. He felt it was best for the wagon's preservation to discontinue its use. He also cited the fact that the wagons operating expenses exceeded its income so the society was losing money on its operation.

Between April and July 2000 the museum received a donation of 31 file cabinets from Agco. Mary Ann had been called by a man named Pat about the cabinets. To get the cabinets Mary Ann, Wayne Wiltse, and perhaps others went to Independence, Missouri to the cave storage facility owned by Agco. They took the cabinets back to Charles City and Dick Young<sup>10</sup> plus some of his employees helped unload them.

In 2001 renovation of the first floor began. Prior to this the floor was made up of several smaller rooms that had been office space when the building was used by Salsbury's Laboratories. The 2001 project removed most of these walls to create a more open space to set up exhibits and house the gift shop. Frank McKinney initiated the first floor renovation project. Frank McKinney gave his resignation in July 2001, before the renovations to the first floor were complete. His last day was July 27<sup>th</sup> and he went to work at a museum in Montana. The renovations of the first floor were complete in December 2001.

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<sup>10</sup> Dick Young was on the Maintenance and Planning Committee and was a board member for several years. His wife, Kay Young, also helped with children's programs.

Mary Ann Townsend was named interim director at the museum after McKinney's resignation. She remained interim director until fall of 2002 when she officially became museum director.

Between January and May of 2002 the log cabin was moved from its location in the basement onto the first floor of the museum. Funds for this project were from the Andres Trust. The log cabin had been in the basement past the elevator in what is now the workshop area. According to the May 2002 newsletter, guests would often miss the log cabin completely while touring the museum. Dick Young, a board member at the time, helped move the log cabin with his construction company, Young Construction. According to the May 2002 newsletter, the log cabin area would not be quite finished by May 14<sup>th</sup>, but presumably it was close to done at that time. When the log cabin was moved to the first floor the linotype and Charles City Press machines were moved from that corner of the museum with the intention of moving them into the basement. However, due to their weight, museum staff and volunteers working on the project decided to leave them upstairs, presumably in the exact place they are now.

In spring 2003 Dixie Fox helped put together the dentist office, barbershop, and clothing shop in the business district.<sup>11</sup>

In July 2004 the Legel's Drugstore display received a new tin roof and wood floors to enhance the space's authenticity. The work was done by Young Construction. Also in 2004 the Arts Center's cornerstone with the time capsule from 1904 was opened. Museum director, Mary Ann Townsend was present and helped take out and showcase the items that were in the time capsule. Also involved in the ceremony were Dick Young, Jeff Sisson, and Arts Center director, Tracy Sweet.

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<sup>11</sup> Dixie Fox helped put together several displays over the years and also made centerpieces for the annual meetings.

In 2006, the museum underwent another reconstruction with the funds from an Andres grant. On the second floor, the space now referred to as the community room was made by removing the walls from five rooms. They also installed a lowered ceiling and new lights. Around the same time the door to the then Collections Room (now the Carriage Room) was enlarged. They intended to use the opened up space on the second floor for exhibits but it is now the community room.

The July 2009 newsletter announced the progress of the upstairs period rooms. Period rooms had at one time been a part of the first floor exhibit and, when at the Main St. location, were a part of the second floor there. According to the newsletter, the area where the period rooms are had been storage. Dick Young took out the walls and expanded the space to accommodate the rooms. They were set up essentially the same as they are now in 2023. The country store--or "emporium" as they call it in the newsletter—was set up at the same time. In April 2010 the newsletter stated that the rooms were not yet finished and the paintings that are in that space would soon be done by Jackie Davidson.<sup>12</sup>

Also in 2010 work was done to scan and clean up the blueprint aperture cards in the basement. The Minneapolis Moline Collectors Club was involved with this project.

In 2013 the museum celebrate its 50 year anniversary with a big party. Also, in 2013 museum staff worked on putting together the Floyd County history timeline in the community room on the second floor. The kiosk on Floyd County history was put out with this display.

Sometime before January 2014 the electronic sign outside was installed. Also, in 2014 manuals sales began to

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<sup>12</sup> At the time, Jackie Davidson was the office assistant. She was an artistic lady who did many of the paintings/murals in the museum.

suffer so the historical society began a fundraising effort to get the monetary support necessary for keeping the museum open.

At the beginning of 2015 the museum launched its virtual tour program. There were two iPads available for use with the tour. It is unclear how visitors logged into the tour. They may have somehow automatically connected to the tour when logging into the museum wifi or perhaps it was all hosted on the museum website.

In 2015 the fundraising campaign to make up the museum's financial deficit was in full swing. Dick Nelson and Dean Tjaden headed up the effort to raise money to support the museum. For the 2014-2015 FY budget the museum projected to earn only \$87,333.96 and have expenses totaling \$135,246.24. Therefore, the fundraising goal for 2015 was \$50,000. In October 2015 the newsletter reported that the museum was only a few thousand dollars short of its fundraising goal.

On May 15, 2018 the museum honored the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Charles City tornado with a presentation and unveiling of the touchscreen kiosk designed by intern Adam Nielson.<sup>13</sup>

In April 2020, Mary Ann Townsend, long time museum director retired along with Elaine Mead, collections technician. Elaine had been collections technician since 2006. Jennifer Thiele was hired to replace Mary Ann. The COVID-19 pandemic caused the museum to close temporarily soon after Jennifer arrived. In July 2020 Jennifer hired Sara Renaud to be the collections technician. The pair began several large projects to revamp the museum including updating the first floor exhibit space and beginning the process of cataloguing all items in the basement.

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<sup>13</sup> The museum received a Silos and Smokestacks intern program award to help pay Adam. He was a student at UNI and lived in Waverly.

In 2021 the museum roof was replaced after a lot of fundraising. In April 2021 the museum held its first annual spring rummage sale. A redesign of the upstairs bathroom into a kitchen plus the restoration of a former bathroom were complete in summer 2021. Also in April 2021 the museum received a quote for an exterior masonry/tuckpointing project needed on the museum building. Therefore, in December 2021 the museum held a Silent Auction to raise funds for the exterior masonry project.

In fall 2021 Jennifer started a guest speaker series called Chautauqua Talks, named after the Chautauqua events that were once held on the grounds along the south side of the Cedar River. The speakers were hosted every third Saturday of the month from September to June.

Jennifer and Sara chose to close the room known as the Assembly Room to convert it into the Print Archive. Barry Levey, a new, very handy volunteer constructed shelving units for the Print Archive. The shelving units are designed to hold paintings and art artifacts the museum has. Since its formation, the photo collection, various primary source documentation, and all the pole books, have been moved into the Print Archive.

2021 also saw the introduction of several temporary exhibits on the Life of an Artifact, Childhood Nostalgia, Floyd County Snapshots, and Unforgettable Businesses.

In 2021, Pioneer Day was brought back post-Covid as Heritage Fest. Pioneer Day had historically focused on historical activities from specifically the frontier era. Jennifer chose to rename Pioneer Day to Heritage Fest so that the historic focus could be more inclusive of all of Floyd County's past.

Jennifer and Sara increased the volunteer base for the museum and set volunteers to the task of cataloguing and organizing many of the museum spaces. One of the rooms that needed a lot of attention was the manual room. Before the troop of devoted Tuesday volunteers (Patti

Speas, Connie Parmer, and Jane Hitchcock) began working in the manual room there were manuals scattered in piles on the floor. The Tuesday crew reorganized everything and completed the task in fall 2022. Simultaneously, another Tuesday volunteer, Lori Aird, worked to retype the museum's manual list into a new document. Over the years the list of all the manuals the museum had had become difficult to use, with many handwritten additions and comments. No one could find the digital copy of that list, so Lori made a new one. She completed the retyped list in fall 2022.<sup>14</sup>

In January 2022, Scott Galliard was hired as a contract employee to go through everything in the basement and catalogue it one-by-one. In February of that same year Jennifer Thiele submitted her resignation and moved to another museum in Cedar Rapids. Sara Renaud was made interim director until she too left in April 2022. When Jennifer left the museum hired the high school intern, Megan Bottorff to be the collections technician. Sara moved to South Carolina. Mckenna Lloyd was hired as the new museum director in July 2022. Her first day was August 2, 2022. Megan left to attend college at UNI in August 2022.

The basement stewardship project was originally estimated to take 3-5 years by Jennifer and Sara. The process required that Scott go through each room in the basement assessing and cataloguing items that were to stay in the collection and setting aside items to be deaccessioned. While working in the basement Scott built most of the shelves for the objects to be kept on. He also removed the doors to all the rooms in the basement. Scott finished going through all the rooms in the basement in March 2023.

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<sup>14</sup> Also an integral part of the Tuesday volunteer crew are Tim Speas and Darrell Parmer. The men are tasked with various projects as they are needed.

In summer 2022 Scott reached a part of the basement where manuals lay in piles on pallets. He organized the manuals onto shelves. Inspired by his recent organization of manuals and taking a break from his work in the basement, Scott began adding to and editing the newly typed manual list when Lori Aird finished her work on it. Scott went through all the filing cabinets in the Vault, the manual room, and manuals in the basement and made sure they were entered into the manual list—adding a location and price for the manuals the museum could sell original copies of. Many of the manuals in the museum collection had never been on the list.

In summer 2023 Scott also reorganized and made an index of all the tractor company sales literature in the museum's collection.

Along with the basement stewardship project, Jennifer and Sara had also raised funds for a basement electrical project. When they began the lighting in the basement was scant. The funds to light the basement had all be secured by July of 2022. Work began in September 2022. The lighting was finished in spring 2023.

Mckenna continued the Chautauqua Talks series when she started at the museum. She also took up the task of reorganizing the room once known as the collections room. An intern from UNI came in fall 2022 and helped with this project. After the large items in the room were moved out in January 2023 workers from Cambrex volunteered to repaint the room.

In fall 2022 Mckenna received funds to digitize the Oliver 16mm film in the museum's basement from a Silos and Smokestacks grant. The project began in January 2023 but hit an unfortunate snag when the man digitizing the film unexpectedly died. A new digitization company was secured and the project began for the second time in October 2023. The museum expects to receive the first round of film footage by January 2024. As part of this project Mckenna and Scott reorganized and put into boxes

all of the film in the tractor room in the basement. The film is separated by company and then alphabetized.

In January 2023 new exhibits on the post office, photography, early transportation, and the Charles City College (1967-68) were put on display. Also in January 2023, Scott's contract was up and he was made a regular full-time employee rather than a contract employee.

Fundraising for the exterior masonry project was ongoing throughout 2022 and 2023. Between August 2022 and October 2023 the museum raised \$103,345.48 for the exterior masonry project—enough to have the project completed. The project's anticipated start is spring 2024.

Mckenna also continued the project of organizing the Print Archive. She and the Tuesday volunteers (after they finished with the manual room) went through all the Vertical Files to remove all primary source documents to be filed into their own files in the Print Archive. Some of the photos that were in the library have also been moved into the Print Archive. The Print Archive is an ongoing organizational project.

Throughout 2023, after completing the task of going through all the objects in the basement Scott began going through the various other storage rooms on the first and second floor of the museum. Those items went through the same process as the ones in the basement and were moved around accordingly.

In the spring and summer 2023 Mckenna developed several more new exhibits. In April the Sports in Floyd County exhibit was opened with a special focus on the Powersville softball team. In August, the closed room, once the Collections Room, now the Carriage Room, was partially reopened with an exhibit on hotels. In October, after Scott had gone through the country store area on the second floor, Mckenna replaced that exhibit with two rotating exhibits. One on shopping trends and department stores and the other on the Charley Western Railroad.



In summer 2023 the museum hired a seasonal intern, Margaret Schafer. Margaret was tasked with beginning the process of going through the museum's extensive textile collection. In the 12 weeks she had in the summer she was only able to go through all of the dresses in the collection.

On July 28, 2023 the museum held Heritage Fest again after missing 2022 due to staff transitions. The day was a success and there were over 400 people in attendance. Heritage Fest 2023 featured two musical acts, three food trucks, an opportunity to play historic cricket, thirteen participating vendors and organizations, the popcorn wagon pulled by the XO-121, and the museum open for free all day long.