



Museum Musings

Stockton Heritage Museum Newsletter
Spring 2023

ON DISPLAY

The Museum has a few **permanent exhibits** that are the foundation of Stockton's history. These include:

- Chicago Great Western Railroad exhibit
- Kraft Cheese collection (from 1914 founding)
- Stockton area school display including all the rural schools
- Miniature reproduction of the Niemeyer Drug Store
- A timeline of Stockton and Illinois history
- Exhibits of Stockton businesses, buildings, medical professionals and advertising artifacts

Revolving exhibits currently include

- The 1970s
- Fashion through the decades
- J. Howard Smith Art Exhibit
- Centennial Farms
- Women of Stockton and other smaller displays.

1970s Display – 50 years Ago



For a look back in time, come and check out our **all things '70s** display.

Those of you who graduated 50 years ago may want a refresher on the current events marking your year. We also showcase '70s toys, TV, music, candy, and style. **It's the bomb!**

Focusing on Art – J. Howard Smith



One of our new for 2023 displays focuses on J. Howard Smith (1860–1941), a nationally recognized painter, mostly of western subjects, who was raised and lived much of his life in Elmo, Illinois.

He studied in Paris and Chicago and worked as an illustrator in NYC, but he did much of his painting in his studio on his farm in Pleasant Valley, which he loved so much.

Smith's passion was horses. He worked as a cowboy and started his own horse breeding business. He was enamored with the west and was a contemporary of Frederic Remington and Charles Russell. After he married he worked on his father-in-law's horse ranch in Canada. Many of his paintings depict horses.

The Stockton Heritage Museum owns five of Smith's paintings and will be displaying them with his life's story this season.

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Centennial Farms and Agriculture Display

Agriculture is a main component in the founding and development of Stockton. Come celebrate agriculture with us through our displays and family history. Add your farm to our map which celebrates families who have been on the land for 50, 100, or even 150 years. In the display of tools used in farming, test your knowledge. Come visit us!



Stockton Heritage Museum

107 W. Front Avenue, PO Box 93, Stockton, Illinois, 61085
815-947-2220 • www.stocktonheritagemuseum.org

**OPENING FOR THE 2023 SEASON
APRIL 29 & 30**



We love our Volunteers

Volunteers are the backbone of the Museum. Without the help of all our volunteers, we would not have this great resource. We encourage all of you to get involved in some small way with either projects or with greeting visitors.

We are in great need of folks to volunteer as hosts on Saturdays 10-2 and Sundays 11-2 during the summer. Two people are needed for each shift. No experience or knowledge is necessary, just a friendly face.

We are having an orientation meeting on Saturday, April 22 at 9 a.m. for all interested parties. Instructions and a tour will be provided along with light refreshments. Please bring a buddy and find out how you can be a part of this centerpiece of downtown Stockton.

Upper left: Melody Heidenreich helps with file organization of our family files. Below left: Sandy Heller and Karen Brose work on the Fashion Through the Decades display. Lower right: The train guys meet as a group on Wednesday afternoon to work on the layout. Ernie Brose fine-tunes the slope of a section of the countryside landscape base.



The Railroad in Miniature

The Museum has a dedicated crew of men who are updating the train display to celebrate the role the Chicago Great Western played in the founding and development of Stockton. These train aficionados went to work on the display, which has evolved with the addition of space at the museum. The layout includes Stockton, Woodbine and East Stockton, home of the roundhouse and midpoint between Chicago and Oelwein, Iowa. Stockton gained the J.L. Kraft Cheese company in part due to the railroad.

Thanks to crew members Dick Bergman, Ed Marcure, Woody Wilson, Ernie Brose, and the late Bill Lucke.





2023 Programs

We've been busy planning our programs for 2023 and hope you will join us at the museum to be entertained and enlightened.

Sunday, May 7 • 2 p.m.

Civil War Ladies Dress from Head to Toe

Presented by Karen Brose

Join us as Karen shares her knowledge and expertise of the many facets and layers of clothing required for dressing Civil War era women.

Karen started an online costume business in 2000, with a focus on 1800s to early 1900s era clothing. She sold her 5-star rated creations through EBay, an online shop, and at rendezvous events for over 20 years, and employed 3-5 excellent seamstresses to assist her.

Karen retired several years ago but has graciously agreed to share her dress-making knowledge and sewing history with us. Wear *your comfy clothes* and come learn all about what was involved in dressing from head to toe in the Civil War era.

Sunday, June 11 • 2 p.m.

History of the Chicago Great Western Railroad in Jo Daviess County, with a focus on Stockton and East Stockton

Presented by Brian and Joyce Ostberg

Brian and Joyce Ostberg started BeHistoric, their YouTube channel devoted to regional history and prehistory, in the autumn of 2020. They have published dozens of videos exploring regional topics related to history, archeology, and geology.

Their presentation at the Stockton Heritage Museum will explore the history of the Chicago Great Western railway through Jo Daviess County, with a particular focus on Stockton, a railroad town which took root during the launch of this historic railway in the late 1880's, and its smaller sibling, East Stockton, which rose and fell with the railway's prospects in the early part of the 20th century.



Wednesday, July 12 • 6 p.m.

Hollywood Films of the 1970s: A Decade That Changed American Filmmaking

Presented by Alan Wenzel

The 1970s was a pivotal decade for Hollywood movies and is remembered for such films as *The Godfather*, *American Graffiti*, *Jaws*, *Annie Hall*, *The Exorcist*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, and so many more great movies. After finally catching up to the political, cultural, and social changes of the 1960s, films in this period began a shift away from movies with a message to a different form of movie entertainment.

This program will highlight key, influential movies from that era and identify how, fifty years later, these films are still shaping the movies we are seeing on the big screen.



Keep up to date by visiting us online

www.stocktonheritagemuseum.org

<https://www.facebook.com/StocktonHeritageMuseum/>

Artifact Donations

The museum is pleased to receive donations from families who decide the museum is the best resting place for their treasures. One artifact given to us recently was a 1920 High School memory book by Viola Bonjour. This book includes portraits of her classmates, with names, as well as graduation invitations, senior play programs, and group photos. It's a wonderful keepsake.

Wendy Fjellstad donated a watch that was given to her grandfather, Roy Johns, when he retired from the Chicago Great Western railroad in 1952.



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We thank our many donors who have aided the museum with financial support throughout the year.

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Listings are for
fiscal year Nov. 1, 2021
through Oct. 31, 2022

Museum Hours

Our regular hours resume
April 29 & 30, 2023.
We will be open Saturdays
from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
and Sundays from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
These hours will continue
through October.

In the meantime, if you have a
question or a donation, give us a
call at **815-947-2220** or email us
at **info@stocktonheritagemuseum.org**.

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