

Friends of the Dodge House

SAVE THE DATE

- November 14th – decorating begins
- November 20th – Members' Tea
- November 22nd – Dodge House Opens to Public for Christmas Season
- December 1st – A Night with Santa
- December 1st, 8th & 15th – Christmas Family Nights

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FROM THE DIRECTOR BY KORI NELSON

It's Christmas time...oh, wait it's Thanksgiving time...er, uh...well, I guess its both!

I always want to give both holidays their fair share, but we tend to lean a little ahead towards the Christmas season at the Dodge House. No one can argue that it is such an exciting time to see the Dodge House transformed into a winter wonderland. The twinkling lights, the glitter, the garland, the rich colors and last but not least the excitement of seeing all the creative tree decorations.

The whole scene becomes even more magical when

snow falls on the property and we are surrounded by a sea of white.

It should be easier to maneuver the grounds this year during the holiday season thanks to the new sidewalk installed during the summer of 2011. Gone are the brick steps and deteriorating pathways. The goal, in addition to making travel easier on site, was to bring the grounds closer to the way they looked during the lifetime of General Dodge. Again, our thanks to the City of Council Bluffs for their financial and administrative services with this project. It is wonderful to

see the Dodge House once again become the focal point of the property. Impressive is the only word that seems fitting to describe the Dodge House, regardless of whether it is decorated for Christmas.

We encourage our membership to attend this Christmas Members Tea for the fellowship, food, beautiful decorations and music.

Please visit the Union Pacific Railroad Museum, the Squirrel Cage Jail, the Railswest Railroad Museum and Western Historic Trails Center to enjoy their holiday activities for 2011.

DODGE HOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Walter Pyper—President

Tara Slevin

Gronstal, Treasurer for service since 2003. We also thank Todd Graham, who served for several years on the Board until he moved out the area. We also thank our outgoing General's Ladies officers, Mindy Godfrey, President, Jody Edwards, Vice-President and Bonnie Korkow, Secretary. Carol Terry, Treasurer, will remain in her post one for 2012.

Chuck Hansen—Vice President

**Mindy Godfrey —
General's Ladies President**

Margit Paulsen—Secretary

**Larry Foster — Council Bluffs
Parks and Recreation Director
— City Liaison**

Matt Gronstal—Treasurer

Bill Ballenger

Dick Graeme

Laura Dodge Luther

Dick Miller

We'd like to extend a sincere thank you to our outgoing Board Members Margit Paulsen, Secretary and Matt

HISTORY OF ST. NICHOLAS

The legend of Santa Claus begins centuries ago with the son of wealthy parents in Patara, Lycia which is off the coast of modern day Turkey. Born in 280 A.D. they named their son Nicholas. Young Nicholas was orphaned at an early age and inherited his parents vast wealth, which he used to assist the needy, sick and suffering.

While still a young man Nicholas was named the Bishop of Myra and dedicated his life to serving God. While he was very generous, Nicholas was quite shy and often left gifts anonymously at the homes of those in need. Nicholas, the Bishop of Myra died on December 6, 343 A.D.

After his death Nicholas was named the saint of Russia, children and voyagers. St. Nicholas Day is celebrated on the anniversary of his death, December 6th (December 19th on the Julian Calendar). Over many years St. Nicholas Day was celebrated with small gifts and candies.

Traditionally in Russia and Germany, St. Nicholas was portrayed

as a tall, stately bishop in a cloak, with mitre, jeweled gloves and cozier. He was usually accompanied by a white horse bearing gifts that he would place in the stockings or shoes left near the fire by eager children, thus starting the tradition of hanging Christmas stockings during the season. In about 1200 A.D. St. Nicholas became known by another name, Father Christmas.

As people began to immigrate to America each country brought their holiday traditions with them. It was here in America that Santa Claus became a household name. The Dutch called their Father Christmas, Sinter Klass, which would eventually become the more easily pronounceable Santa Claus. The Russian immigrants brought with them the practice of giving gifts on New Year's Eve, which would eventually fall back to Christmas Eve as was the tradition started by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert., Americans received accounts and drawings of Queen Victoria and her husband Prince Albert enjoying the holiday around the hearth. It was also during this time that Santa Claus received an image change.

In 1822 dentist Clement Clarke Moore wrote a poem for his children which he titled "An Account of a Visit from Santa Claus" which would later become the famous "The Night Before Christmas" story that is told in homes across America at Christmas time. In his poem Clarke describes Santa Claus as a rotund elf who flew through the sky with his eight reindeer delivering presents across the land. The image was further changed by artist Thomas Nash who drew from Clarke's description and created a jolly, portly gentleman in what is his most known costume of a red suit and hat with white fur trim, thus changing the image of St. Nicholas to the Santa Claus that we know and love today. Quite a change indeed!



U P C O M I N G E V E N T S

Members' Christmas Tea—
November 20th 1-4pm

Location: Historic General Dodge House

This year's theme "A Visit from St. Nicholas" is sure to remind you of those sleepless nights waiting for him to arrive with his bag full of goodies!!

A Night with Santa—
December 1st 6-8pm

Location: Beresheim House

Admission: No charge to visit with Santa Claus

Bring the family for a free photo opportunity with Santa Claus. Bring your own camera to capture the memory!

Day with the Dodges—
December 11th 1-4pm

Location: Historic General Dodge House

Admission: \$7 per adult, \$5 per senior, \$3 per child. Members FREE!

See the Dodge House like never before. Witness the maids hard at work making the house a perfect abode for the Dodges'.

Christmas Family Nights—
December 1st, 8th & 15th 6-8pm

Location: Historic General Dodge House

Admission: \$10 per family, limit two adults only.

Celebrate the holiday season with an evening visit to the Dodge House and enjoy twinkling lights at night!

DODGE HOUSE MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

Most of you should have already received your invitation to the Annual Christmas Members Tea on Sunday, November 20th from 1:00 –4:00pm at both the Dodge House and Beresheim House. This is a wonderful membership benefit for current members to be the first to enjoy the Dodge House decorated for Christmas, enjoy a delicious array of food and visit with many of our 2011 tree decorators.

If you did not receive this special invitation, please check the mailing label on this newsletter. In the

upper corner, it will read the month and year of when your Dodge House membership expires.

For example, if your membership expires in May of 2012, your label will read 05/12. Any membership that expires before the date of the Christmas Members Tea will need to renew in order to attend the Members Tea on November 20th. We will gladly accept membership renewals at the Beresheim House on the day of the tea if you need to update your membership. If you did not receive an official invitation to the Christmas Members

Tea and you believe this to be an oversight, please call the Dodge House office. We apologize in advance if we missed someone or have an incorrect membership date.

We hope all our members take advantage of attending this Christmas Tea. There will be music in the ballroom for the duration of the Tea and from 1-2 pm, Kenneth Be', Head of Paintings Conservation at the Ford Conservation Center will treat guests to music played on the Baroque Lute by 18th century composer Sylvius Leopold Weiss in the back parlor.



Marcasite Watch \$35.00

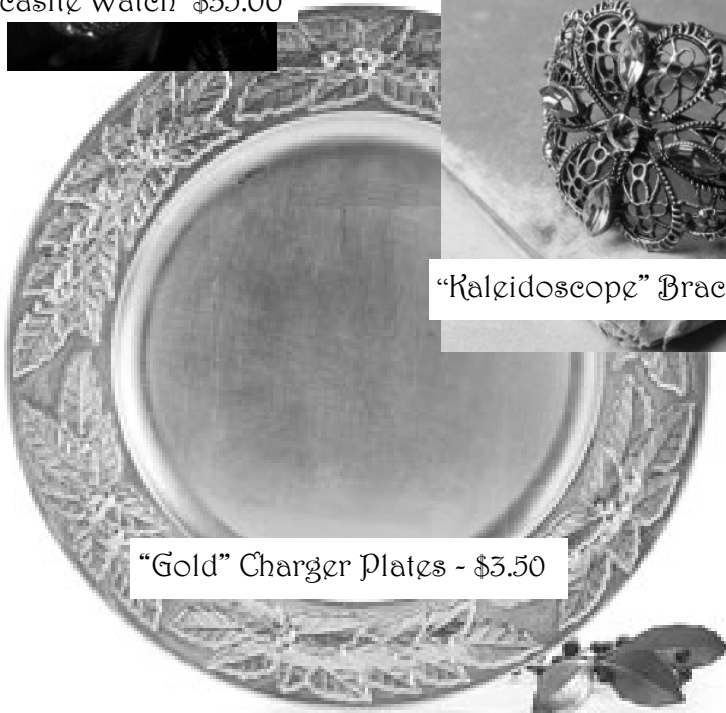
Victorian Inspired Gifts *from* the General's Store



"Bubo" Owl Pendant - \$20.00



"Kalzidoscope" Bracelet- \$40.00



"Gold" Charger Plates - \$3.50



Marcasite Wreath Pin - \$35.00

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.DODGEHOUSE.ORG



621 Third Street
Council Bluffs, IA 51503

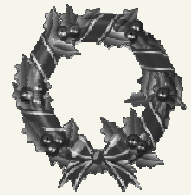
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investment in the future**

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D O N A T I O N S A N D T H A N K Y O U S

Catherine Sell — Donation of two 35-foot 100% wool Oriental runners

Kathi Rotella — Monetary donation for textile collection and speaker for Annual Tea "Arsenic and Old Lace"

Ridge and Danette Hein-Snider — Assistance with "In Memory of...The Art of Mourning" exhibit (installation and closing), 150th Anniversary event with the 168th Infantry and food for Stilts.

Linda Knell — Loan of over 200 yards of black fabric and display items, installation and closing for "In Memory of...The Art of Mourning" exhibit. Presentation at Risen Son to benefit the Dodge House.

Rose Dalton — Presentation at Primrose to benefit the Dodge House. Donation of flowers, pumpkins, and two new US flags.

John O'Conner — Presentation at the Council Bluffs Public Library for closing of "In Memory of...The Art of Mourning" to benefit the Dodge House.

168th Infantry — Assistance with celebration of the 150th Anniversary of Dodge's Fourth Iowa and closing ceremony for "In Memory of...The Art of Mourning".

Maher-Livingston Funeral Home — Loan of display casket, flag and assistance with closing exhibit of "In Memory of...The Art of Mourning"

Bloom Works — Thank you for the beautifully recreated floral displays for "In Memory of...The Art of Mourning" exhibit.

Carol Terry — Food for Stilts

Cindy Jacobsma — Scrapbooking

Ralph Wright — Thank you for time spent cleaning and organizing the Beresheim House basement storage areas, filing system and General's Ladies materials.

Peoples National Bank — Thank you to the Bennett Avenue branch for providing shredding services to the Dodge House.

Earl and Vicki Hallberg — Donation of large planter Fall mums for Beresheim House and garden support.

Hy-Vee Food Store (Madison Ave) — Donation of cake for 150th Anniversary of General Dodge's Fourth Iowa event.

Super Saver — Donation of cookies for Memorial Day event

Cathy Born — Ordering, organization and display of the General's Store