

GCHS Heritage Center Open House

Grundy County Historical Society is hosting an Open House at the new Heritage Center located at 465 Railroad Ave., in Tracy City, Saturday, April 24, from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. The reception will celebrate the opening of the Heritage Center with the introduction of its first completed section, the Heritage Center Library and Research Center. The public is encouraged to attend, enjoy complimentary refreshments, and tour the facilities, some of which remain under construction.

Located in the historic First National Bank Building, the new Heritage Center will house not only the new Library and Research Center, but also an Exhibit Hall and an Assembly Hall. The Exhibit Hall will include galleys around its perimeter five of which will depict the five areas of history that grew out of the region that impacted national or international history. Other galleys will portray the natural history and geology of the plateau, the Beersheba Springs story and the timber and lumber industry on the plateau. The Assembly Hall, named for Lulu Estelle Robbins and E.L. Hampton, will be used for meetings and contain audio visual equipment. There will be a President's Office off the Assembly Hall, named for Arthur St. Clair Colyar, replete with period furnishings. The facility includes two vaults for storage of documents and artifacts. The upstairs provides two offices for administration of the center plus space for storage and exhibit preparation. The Heritage Center of 5,750 square feet will also feature historical artifacts, models, photographs, plus a remarkably exquisite mural now ready for viewing which runs the length of the wall in the Exhibit Hall and Reception Area depicting the region's history.

Grundy County Historical Society has launched a fundraising campaign in order to carry out the highly anticipated development of its Heritage Center. The new Center will provide a central place wherein local residents and tourists can utilize the Center's museum-like panorama while offering a comprehensive research facility for the history-buff and for genealogical study. By providing unique contribution opportunities, donors who contribute the first \$15,000 through \$50,000 will be allowed by the Heritage Center to choose a name for a specific room in recognition of the donor's gift. Other recognition contribution opportunities exist for more modest financial gifts that could include historical banners, furnishings, equipment and other items. Room naming opportunities remain for the following rooms:

1. The Exhibit Hall (which houses the Reception Area) - \$50,000
2. The Library and Research Center - \$50,000

3. Exhibit Room 1 - \$20,000
4. Exhibit Room 2 - \$20,000
5. Exhibit Room 3 - \$20,000
6. Exhibit Room 4 - \$20,000
7. Second-floor Office, Storage and Preparation Room - \$20,000
8. Second-floor Heritage Center Office - \$15,000

Recognition Societies are as follows:

1. Felix Grundy Society \$50,000 or more
2. Adrian Northcutt Society \$25,000-\$49,999
3. John Armfield Society \$20,000-\$24,999
4. Sam Werner Society \$15,000-\$19,999
5. Arthur St. Clair Colyar Society \$10,000-\$14,999
6. E.L. Hampton Society \$5,000-\$9,999
7. John Moffat Society \$1000-\$4,999
8. Eugen Plumacher Society \$500-\$999
9. Alfred M. Shook Society \$1-\$499

In the restoration of the building, the project has provided work for at least 25 local craftsmen, artists and subcontractors. The Heritage Center is open from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., M-F and Saturday by appointment. For more information, visit www.gchs.homestead.com or www.grundycountyhistory.org, or call the Heritage Center at 931-592-6008 or 931-592-6009.