



# ROCK•TALK

the newsletter of  
The Gibraltar Neighborhood Association, Inc.

▶ ▶ ▶ AUGUST 2012 || Volume 4, Issue 4

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Visit the GNA website:  
[www.GibraltarNA.org](http://www.GibraltarNA.org)

## Upcoming Dates to Remember

- September 3  
Have a SAFE & HAPPY Labor Day!
- September 8-9  
General's Ladies Tea
- **Saturday, September 22**  
GNA General Meeting  
Outdoor BBQ/Potluck  
528 Clark Ave.  
4:00 p.m.
- Wednesdays:  
Music in the Park at Bayliss Park
- Thursdays: Main St.  
Farmers Market

## Welcome Autumn with GNA Neighbors!

Come share in the fun while you get to know your neighbors at the Gibraltar Neighborhood Association's September Picnic! As you may recall, we had to postpone our July picnic plans due to the blistering hot weather, so hopefully our September date will be more hospitable!! We'll be gathering on **Saturday, September 22** outside the home of Dave and Amy Adams (528 Clark Ave.) for food, fun and fellowship. **We plan to start at 4:00 p.m.**

The main dish will be provided by the association. Please bring a side dish to share! **The association will also provide seating, tables, plates and eating utensils, plus soft drinks, iced tea or water.** If you want alternative beverages (adult or otherwise), please bring whatever you wish.

To make sure we don't have too many of the same side dish, and so we order enough main dish & beverages, **we ask that you R.S.V.P. to either Mary Madison at 323-8073, Paulette Brandt at 328-7399 or Amy Adams at 329-9885 no later than September 19th** and indicate how many will be attending, and if you will be bringing salad, dessert, fruit, etc. PLEASE plan to join us for this fun and casual opportunity to work on building a better neighborhood for all to enjoy!



## Nate Watson's Office Hours

City Council Member Nate Watson holds open office hours on the Saturdays before Council Mondays from 9:00 a.m.—Noon to give residents an opportunity to see him with their suggestions and concerns. Suite 414 (4th floor) of the Park Building (500 Willow Ave., between Bayliss Park and the Library). Stop in to talk with Nate about issues, or to say "hi" to our Fairmount Park Neighbor! ■

## 12th Annual General's Ladies Tea at the Dodge House

Each year, for the past 12 years, the "General's Ladies" of the Dodge House have hosted a Fall Tea. This year the theme is "**150 years of the Union Pacific Railroad**". This theme was chosen because of the General's connection to the Union Pacific Railroad.

**The dates for this year's tea are September 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.**

**Doors will open each day at 1:30pm with the Tea at 2:00pm.**

The featured speaker will be Patricia LaBounty, the Outreach and Collections Manager of the Union Pacific Railroad Museum.

### **Ticket prices are as follows:**

- **Regular Table seating Members \$15.00**
- **Non-members \$20.00**
- **Children age 12 & under - \$10.00**

### **New offering for 2012:**

- **General Dodge Engineer's Table \$25.00 per adult**
- **Union Pacific Streamliner\* Table \$25.00 per adult**

\*Streamliner China features gold pin-striping and winged train emblem that ranges in color from rust-red to green or brown. The pattern, introduced in 1936, is still in use on Union Pacific's private passenger fleet.



A distinctive menu will be offered at these two tables (maximum 8 guests per table). These tables will feature Dodge House and Union Pacific Streamliner Dinnerware. Please, adults only at these two tables.

**Call (712) 322-2406 to reserve your seat. Space is limited.**

The General's Ladies is a volunteer group that supports Dodge House activities such as the annual Plant Sale and the Garden Walk. This year, GNA members Liz Matis and Paulette Brandt joined the General's Ladies. They will provide the place settings and decoration for table 7, "The 49'er". ■

*Editor's Note:* PLEASE consider volunteering some of your time to our neighborhood jewel, the Dodge House.

They have multiple opportunities available, including activities that require very little of your time, like stamping envelopes a couple times a year or helping sell plants, etc. For our neighborhood and our community to keep this beautiful, unique piece of living history alive, people need to volunteer. **Won't you help?**

Contact Paulette or Liz (phone numbers on the last page of this newsletter) for more information.



The GNA Book Club is a fun, social gathering where we get together and share a bit of news, a glass of wine and discuss our latest book assignment. We are currently reading "**Orange is the New Black**" by **Piper Kerman**. Come join us on Wednesday, **September 5th at 7:00 p.m.**, at Patty Gillespie's where we'll discuss the book! If you enjoy reading, contact Patti Hannan at 712-323-8600 for more info. We'd love to see you at our next meeting! ■

## Our Past, Present and Future

*To prepare for GNA's future, we must know our past, by Liz Matis*

In this issue of Rock Talk we will be returning to the exploration of the Generals that lived in our area. To begin to understand our next general, we will need to start in April 1861. Most Iowans were pursuing the business of building a young state. Farms and towns were being established. Railroads connected most of the settled areas in the eastern part of the state and were gradually being extended westward. The Confederate attack on Fort Sumter changed everything. Personal concerns were put aside and the entire state became involved in the war effort.

The War Department issued a call for volunteers and asked for one regiment from Iowa. Governor Samuel Kirkwood was uncertain if Iowa could raise the number of volunteers necessary to meet its quota, but enough men enlisted to form ten regiments. In total, Iowa furnished 48 infantry regiments, 9 cavalry regiments and 4 batteries of artillery. Iowa also furnished one black regiment and a thousand replacement troops.

Iowa's 76,000 soldiers conducted themselves with honor throughout the war. Twenty-seven received Congressional Medals of Honor. Thirteen thousand died. Many more died from disease than from bullet wounds.



Three Iowans became major generals during the war. The one we will be looking at will be **Samuel Ryan Curtis**. General Curtis was born on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 1805, to Zarah & Phally Yale Curtis. He was born while his parents were on their way from Connecticut to the West on a farm in Clinton County, New York. After his birth, the family moved to Licking County, Ohio. He would later marry Belinda Buckingham in 1831 and they brought 6 children into the world.

He was educated at the West Point Military Academy, where he held the highest military office in his class. Graduating in 1831 with a brevet second-lieutenancy in the 7th Infantry he was soon after assigned to duty at Fort Gibson in the Indian Territory. In the following year he resigned his commission, and returning to Ohio, studied law and was admitted to the bar. From 1837-1839, he was chief engineer of the Muskingum River Improvement. Later, he practiced law in Wooster, Ohio, and was actively and successfully engaged in the practice, when war was declared with Mexico. He was summoned to Columbus by the Governor of Ohio, and made adjutant-general of the State; not long after was commissioned colonel of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry, which he led to the field. He served on the Northern Line in Mexico under General Taylor, and was for a time on the staff of General Wood; and, as governor, commanded the cities of Matamoras, Camargo and Saltillo.

At the close of the war; he returned to Ohio; but finding his law business had wasted away during his absence, and being urged to take the position of chief engineer of the Des Moines Improvement, he left that State, and coming West, settled in Keokuk, Iowa. He was for a time engaged in the practice of law in the city of Keokuk, and had for partners Colonel J. W. Rankin and the Honorable Charles Mason. From 1850 – 1853, he was engineer-in-charge of the harbor and other works of the city of St. Louis, where the dike that he constructed, which connects Bloody Island to the Illinois shore, will for many years stand as a monument to his credit. It secured for the city of St. Louis great commercial advantages. During the two following years, he was chief engineer of the American Central Rail Road, running through Illinois, Iowa, and other States. As a promoter of the American Central Railroad, his railroad experience gained him an appointment to the Select Committee on the Pacific Railroad prior to the Civil War.

In 1856, General Curtis, a Republican, was elected to Congress from the First Congressional District of Iowa, and in 1858 and again in 1860 was re-elected from the same district. In the canvass of 1860, his opponent was the Honorable C.C. Cole, then Judge of the Supreme Court of Iowa, and one of the ablest debaters and most popular men in the State. No better proof could be had of the general's ability as a statesman, and the integrity of his record, than this final endorsement of him by the people when nearly every section of his District gave him increased majorities. He was also a supporter of the eventual President Abraham Lincoln.

From the organization of the party, Curtis was an earnest and consistent Republican. But what he became most distinguished in Congress for was securing the passage of the Pacific Rail Road Act. Others tried to claim that honor, but he was seen as the "father of the enterprise!" He was also a leading member of the Committee on Military Affairs. Equally important, General Curtis had much to do with the efforts of the House, in countervailing the schemes of Jefferson Davis, in his manipulations of our military forces for his own purposes.

General Curtis was known for his fervent patriotism. Other Generals may have had more brilliant reputations, but none responded more promptly to the first call of national alarm. Leaving his home in the West on the first news of the attack on Fort Sumter he started for Washington. In Philadelphia, he then met the gallant 7<sup>th</sup> New York and Colonel Leffers, and embarked with it on transports for Annapolis. From that point the march was made through the heat and dust by day and night to Washington. Curtis returned to Keokuk to raise volunteers, and on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June he was elected Colonel of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Iowa Infantry by unanimous vote of the officers and men. Ten days later and at midnight, he was summoned by General Lyon by telegraph to Northern Missouri, and marched next day with his regiment for that point. Besides capturing many prisoners and guns, he established at once in Northern Missouri the military authority of the Federal Government.

In the later part of June, he left again for Washington to be present for the 4<sup>th</sup> session of Congress, and while there was promoted to brigadier-general. He resigned his seat in Congress and, reporting to St. Louis, Missouri, was placed in command first of Jefferson Barracks, then the Camp of Instruction at Benton Barracks and finally of the St. Louis District.

In December 1861, General Curtis was placed in command of the District of Southwest Missouri, and immediately moved his head-quarters to Rolla, Missouri to solidify Union control in Arkansas. In the early part of January, 1862, he marched against General Price, and drove him through Missouri and Northern Arkansas. On this march, the enemy was encountered in several skirmishes and engagements.

In the latter part of January, 1862, nearly four months after the march of General Fremont was made from Jefferson City to Springfield, General Curtis left Rolla, Missouri, for the purpose of capturing or dispersing the rebel army under General Sterling Price. His command consisted of the divisions of Sigel, Asboth, Davis and Carr and numbered about twelve thousand men. Passing through Lebanon, Marshfield, Springfield and over the old Wilson Creek battle-field, he arrived in the vicinity of Pea Ridge on the evening of the 20<sup>th</sup> of February

From the 21<sup>st</sup> of February to the 5<sup>th</sup> of March, General Curtis' forces remained in this vicinity; the enemy in the meantime collected all his forces in the front. Curtis was informed of the enemy's great increase of strength and his designs to assume the offensive, General Curtis ordered all his several divisions, by different routes, to fall back to Sugar Creek & Pea Ridge to give battle, should the enemy force one. At this time General Sigel was near Bentonville, Carr was at Cross Hollows, while General Jefferson C. Davis was already on Sugar Creek, just at the base of Pea Ridge.

Stay tuned for PART TWO of the General Curtis story in our next issue of Rock Talk! See you then!

— Liz ■



**THANK YOU to our GNA newsletter  
delivery & distribution team:**

*Harold Compton, Matt Rennie, Chris Gorman  
and Steve Gorman. Without you, our  
Newsletter would not be possible!!!!*

## Upcoming Events at the Dodge House

### September 8th & 9th

Fall Tea

### October 13th & 14th

Christmas Photos

### November 18th

Dickens at the Dodge House

### December 6th

A Night with Santa

Contact the Dodge House for more information on any of these events. As always, they are looking for volunteers; any time you can donate is very much appreciated! ■

## Union Pacific Museum: Our Own Local Jewel

Have you been to the Union Pacific Museum on Willow and Pearl? Paulette Brandt had the opportunity to take a guided tour recently and was amazed at all the history and the number of interactive displays. ***There is something for everyone.*** The history buff, the train enthusiast and of course kids of all ages will enjoy seeing the creative presentations of history. She couldn't believe how much was there; it took over 2 hours to see just two floors and of course she wants to go back! The museum is free, (donations are appreciated) and is very kid friendly. It's a wonderful place to spend an afternoon with your children or grandchildren. ■




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## News Tidbits

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### **Music in the Park (FREE)**

Bayliss Park, Downtown Council Bluffs. Free music - from 6:30pm - 8:00pm; come enjoy the wonderful surroundings and bring a picnic!

**Sept. 5:** River City Ragtime (Ragtime Favorites)

**Sept. 9 (SUNDAY)** at 3:00 p.m. — Special performance by The Three Irishmen. Rain location is the Center, 714 S. Main Street.

**Sept. 12:** E-String Band (rescheduled due to rainout)

### **Bluffs Art Council Photo Contest**

Adult and youth categories, prizes for each age division, judged entries will be on display during the month of October at The Center (714 S. Main). Deadline for submission is September 14. Rules and entry forms available at [www.bluffsarts.org](http://www.bluffsarts.org).

### **Main Street Farmers Market**

5:00 - 8:00 pm every Thursday through September 27 on the corner of 9th Avenue and Main St. The Main Street Market seeks vendors who sell produce, wines, jams, jellies, baked goods, and arts and crafts (all processed food vendors must be State of Iowa certified). For more information, email [mainstreet-farmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:mainstreet-farmersmarket@gmail.com).

### **River City Farmers Market**

7:00am - noon every Saturday through Oct. 13 in the ground level parking lot along the west end of the Omni Business Centre (corner of Kanessville Blvd & Main St). For more information, contact Al Kirkpatrick at (712) 328-1326. ■

## Get to Know Your Neighbor: Cory Peters, *by Cory Peters*

As our publishing deadline draws near, our faithful newsletter crew is running a bit short on time and I find we are without an interview. So you, oh “lucky” reader, get to learn more about your neighbor at the corner of 5th and 3rd — Cory Peters (yes, that’s me).

Most of the long-timers in the neighborhood know that I was born and raised in the Gibraltar Neighborhood, at 214 5th Ave., just up the block from where I live now! I was the last of John & Irene Peters’ four children, and their only girl! My Dad practiced law for many, many years and loved the fact that he just had to walk down to the bottom of the hill to go to work at the Peters Law Firm (founded by my great grandfather over 100 years ago). My mom was a busy homemaker who was very involved in community and volunteer organizations and truly loved being a part of this neighborhood.

When I graduated from the University of Iowa in 1985 (Go Hawks!), my folks decided our wonderful four-story house was just too big for the two of them. They sold it and bought the house at 241 5th Ave. It was just the right size for them, and they were so happy to still be on the same block!

My first job out of college was as a graphic designer for a printing company in Iowa City. From there I moved to Des Moines, working for a printer there as well. Life was chugging along nicely when my then-husband had a job transfer to, of all places, Council Bluffs!

Homeward bound in 2000, the timing could not have been better. My Dad, diagnosed with Alzheimer’s, had to go to a care facility and my mom wasn’t able to stay in the house alone. I was so grateful to be back in C.B. to help care for my Dad during his final years. My Mom was relieved to sell me the house (meaning, she didn’t have to clean all her stuff out of it!).

It was a strange but wonderful feeling to be back in my old neighborhood. Familiar surroundings, familiar folks, and such a wonderful vibe. It’s been amazing to me to see the awesome changes that have happened in

Council Bluffs over the last decade, but in particular in our own Gibraltar Neighborhood.

I love the fact that neighbors are once again making an effort to get to know each other. It used to be like that when I was growing up, but then, as a society, we all kind of started keeping to ourselves. Now, more than ever, there is such value in forming strong neighbor bonds. It creates a sense of community, a sense of security, a sense of purpose. I hope that all of you who are reading this feel the same way I do and will make an extra effort to not only attend at least a few meetings a year, but also to stop and chat with a neighbor when you are out and about!!

I was so incredibly lucky growing up in this neighborhood—there were a bunch of kids my age, and we played together ALL the time. Stretching from the Shockey house down on 3rd Street (now the Winter’s home) up to the Berner’s house at the top of Clark Ave. (now the Adams’ home), there were a dozen or so kids that were always playing kickball, army, guard house (our own made-up game), softball, hide and go seek... there was constant activity. The best part was that we were all fed and looked after by each other’s families. A testament to the bonds we formed is that I am still very close friends with some of those kids, most of whom are scattered hither and yon.

Some of my favorite neighborhood memories from those old days: sledding down the alley behind my house during the winter, and also sledding up at the water works; playing all sorts of games in the Ryan’s front yard (the southeast corner of 5th and Clark—we had all the infield paths worn in the grass from multiple games of softball and kickball!); playing in the hills of Fairmount park, building forts and having dirt clod fights (and believe me, getting hit with a dirt clod hurts like heck!); throwing snowballs at cars from the hill between the Flynn and Hannan house (we weren’t *always* little angels! haha), trick or treating at all the wonderful neighborhood homes; playing in the gutter when it would rain hard; walking to grade school at

## Get to Know Your Neighbor (continued)

Bloomer and stopping at Hushaw Drug to buy penny candy; and sitting on my front porch and watching the Kirn Jr. High boys run up and down the hill for P.E. class at Kirn Field.

Coming back to the neighborhood as an adult, it has been a real joy getting reacquainted with the folks who still lived here, but I've also really enjoyed getting to know those who moved in after I left in 1981, and those who have joined us recently!

Most of those who know me know that I am the proud mom of two furry babies: a yellow lab named Daisy who will be 12 this Christmas, and a black lab named Molly who will be 11 next February. They keep me busy! I also have two amazing adult step-daughters who live in Des Moines and are frequent visitors to C.B.

I have worked for the same company since I moved here in 2000 — Securities America in Omaha. I am a graphic designer in their marketing department (you may have noticed the U of Iowa vanity plates on my silver Hyundai: "graphix"). I love my job, and despite the long daily commute (my office is out west by Cabella's), I am grateful to start each day going to work at something I like!

My three older brothers also live in Council Bluffs, and lucky for me they are all great cooks. We enjoy grilling out together in the summertime, smoking cigars, and also frequently vacation together. I love all kinds of music, so during the summer I enjoy going to Stir Concert Cove or many of the other great music venues around town. I am also a big spots nut, so I try to get to a football or baseball game whenever I can.

It's been a pleasure serving on the GNA Board (one term) and being your newsletter editor for the past four years; it's allowed me to make so many new friends!! I hope you will consider taking an active role in our neighborhood, and I look forward to getting to know **more** of you! See you soon! ■




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### Activity at Old Kirn Gym

Have you noticed all activity at the old Kirn Gym? Remember gym class and sock hops and of course the basketball games? Well the gym will have a new purpose! It is being renovated into 20 loft apartments designed for young adult professionals who may work at a law office or perhaps at one of the hospitals. Ample off-street parking will be on each end of the building, as well as some green space. The unique, attractive exterior of the building cannot be changed due to its historic status. Anticipated finish date is Summer 2013 Isn't it nice to see a positive use of a building that holds so many memories for so many of us! ■



## WE NEED YOU!!

Volunteer organizations can't be successful without VOLUNTEERS! Please consider giving a bit of your time by helping on a committee, helping organize an event or opening your home for a meeting! Thank you!

**Your Newsletter Staff**

**Cory Peters**

712-329-8526

**Paulette Brandt**

712-328-7399

**Liz Matis**

712-323-6400

We welcome your input!  
Please contact us with suggestions on content you want to see covered. ■

**Visit us online:**

**www.GibraltarNA.org**

**Your GNA Board:**

**Paulette Brandt**, President

712-328-7399

**Susie Dew**, Vice President

712-366-7606

**Liz Matis**, Secretary

712-323-6400

**Mary Madison**, Treasurer

712-328-8073

**Steve Gorman**

712-256-8890

**Kent Madison**

712-323-8073

**Dave Adams**

712-329-9885

**Bob Yanders**

712-322-2214

**Harold Compton**

712-325-0324

**RECIPE: Roasted Corn Chowder** from Buck Christensen

**Ingredients**

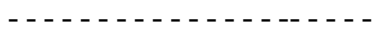
- 1 small butternut squash
- 1 medium white onion
- 1 lb. frozen corn
- 3 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 red bell peppers/ 2 poblano peppers/ 6 jalapeno peppers/ 3 serrano peppers
- 5 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 cans creamed corn
- 32 oz. chicken broth
- 2 tsp salt/ 1 tsp chili powder/ 1 tsp cumin/ 1 tsp oregano
- 1 can coconut milk
- 1 cup half & half cream

**Directions**

Squash: peel, halve (lengthwise), seed and cut into small 1"x1" cubes; mist with olive oil. Onion: peel, cut in half; mist with olive oil. Frozen corn: mist with olive oil. Make 3 large, vented foil envelope/pouch for each of these three ingredients. Roast in over at 350 until each is browned and steaming: approx. 45 minutes for corn, 20 to 25 each for corn and onion. All peppers: roast or broil all peppers whole, starting with the largest. Watch closely and rotate as necessary to ensure even roasting. Peppers are done with skin is blackened. Place blackened peppers into a lidded casserole dish to continue steaming. When all peppers are done and in the dish, let sit for 20 minutes. Then remove stems and seeds (seeds left in the jalapenos and serranos will result in a spicier chowder). Chop.

**Assembly**

Pour olive oil into a large stockpot over medium-high heat. Sauté minced garlic for 1 minute, then add creamed corn and stir continuously for 3 minutes. Add the chicken stock, spices, coconut milk and cream. Add the roasted vegetables, bring to a boil and then reduce the heat to low. Simmer for 20 min. Using an immersion blender, puree the entire soup to desired texture, remove from heat and allow to sit covered for 1 hour before serving. ENJOY!



**CLOSING THOUGHTS:**

“Success means having the courage, the determination and the will to become the person you believe you were meant to be.” — George Sheehan

**Gibraltar Neighborhood Association: Membership Registration Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Become a Gibraltar Neighborhood Association Member!!** Yearly dues are \$25 per household. In order to be eligible to vote for board candidates and other issues, you must be a paid association member. Make checks payable to and mail payment to:

**Gibraltar Neighborhood Association ■ P.O. Box 1971 ■ Council Bluffs, IA 51502-1971**