

GROUT MUSEUM DISTRICT QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

COLLECTIONS

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2026

VOL. CIII NO. 2



IN THIS ISSUE

Museum School 26-27

WWII Regimental National
Flag on Display

MEMBERS ONLY TEA!

Join us for a special Victorian Tea
exclusively for members on
September 26!

Veterans Day at the SBIVM

SPOOKY OCTOBER

Join us for old favorites
and NEW spooky programs!

See inside and reverse for details.

MUSEUM SCHOOL 26-27

The 2026–27 Museum School season is here, and our Education Department is excited to welcome another year of local third graders!

Museum School is a one-of-a-kind program in Iowa, giving students the opportunity to spend four days learning through hands-on experiences aligned with the Iowa Core. Throughout the week, students explore science, history, and Iowa heritage by examining real fossils, discovering the universe in the planetarium, conducting experiments, touring the Rensselaer Russell House, building miniature John Deere tractors on a mock assembly line, and meeting local veterans while learning about Iowa’s military history.

Thanks to the generosity of our community, Museum School continues to be offered free of charge to all participating schools.

If you are interested in supporting Museum School visit groutmuseumdistrict.org/donate and designate “Museum School” under “what would you like your donation to fund.” If you would like to support a specific school or week please contact Margaret at margaret.moye@gmdistrict.org or 319.234.6357.

You can also support Museum School by purchasing items off their Amazon wish list here: <https://tinyurl.com/MSwishlist2627> or by scanning the below QR code.



FEATURED EXHIBIT

WWII REGIMENTAL NATIONAL FLAG, 133RD INFANTRY REGIMENT, 34TH INFANTRY DIVISION

NOW ON DISPLAY WITH PERMANENT EXHIBIT COMING SOON

This American flag is likely the first that the US Army brought to the European Theater of Operations following the United States’s entry into World War II. The 34th “Red Bull” Division was composed of National Guardsmen from Iowa and Minnesota. These Guardsmen became America’s first Soldiers to enter the European Theater of Operations when Baker Company, 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry Regiment, headquartered right here in Waterloo, set foot in Belfast, Northern Ireland on January 26th, 1942—just seven weeks after Germany declared war on the United States.

LIFE Magazine photographer David Scherman captured the above photo as the battalion marched into Belfast. Published on February 23, 1942, Americans got their first look at their boys in Europe. Most of the soldiers pictured are from Black Hawk County. The men in this photograph went on to fight in 611 days of combat through North Africa and Italy. They earned the title “Ironman Battalion.”

This flag was donated to the Grout Museum District in 1960 by Brigadier General Howard Rouse. It was recently conserved and mounted by the Midwest Art Conservation Center of the Minneapolis Institute of Art.

The flag’s conservation was sponsored by the Cedar Falls, IA Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR). The Grout Museum District received an NSDAR grant in the amount of \$4,500 to complete the project in May of 2025. Matching funds for the NSDAR grant were contributed by: Becker-Chapman American Legion Post 138 in Waterloo and its Sons group, Robert Hibbs VFW Post 3896 in Cedar Falls, Retired Maj. Gen. Evan “Curly” Hultman, Retired UNI and East High ROTC instructor and Iraq War veteran Glen Keith, Tim Combs of Americans for Independent Living, Vietnam veteran Len Swiatly, The Waterloo Exchange Club, Rouse family member Audrey Adams-Sorge and the veterans who attend regular Wednesday morning veterans coffees at the Sullivan Brothers Iowa Veterans Museum.

To support the permanent exhibit visit groutmuseumdistrict.org/donate and designate “Iowa Ironman Battalion WWII Flag Conservation” under “what would you like your donation to fund?”

SIPPING ON HISTORY with Margaret

Hello again, friends!

We’ve experienced endings and welcomed new beginnings at the Grout, as the cycle of growth and change continues.

Two chapters have closed this season. The Bluedorn Science Imaginarium building has come down, making way for what’s next. And after decades of dedication, Historian Dr. Robert “Bob” Neymeyer has retired — his legacy lives on through the newly renamed *Dr. Robert Neymeyer Voices of Iowa Oral History Archive*.

At the same time, new beginnings are taking shape. We’re delighted to welcome Hannah Dennis, Gillian Ferguson, and Chris McDougal to the staff in newly defined roles that streamline how we serve our community. And thanks to the generous support of grantors, businesses, and steadfast supporters like you, renovations are underway for the reimagined *Imaginarium Science Gallery*!

The momentum shows in our numbers, too. We’re seeing growing attendance at our weekly Veterans Coffee, rising admissions from travelers, locals, and bus tours alike, and expanding collaborations with community partners near and far.

With all this growth comes a growing need — and a growing opportunity. As we take on new projects and welcome more visitors, we’re looking for more friends to volunteer their time alongside us, whether at the front desk, in our archives, at special events, or helping beautify our grounds and facilities. If you’ve been looking for a way to get more involved, now is a wonderful time to join us.

Please also make note as we transition in to winter, the Museum’s hours will change in November; Tuesday-Saturday, 10AM-4PM.

Thank you for being part of this season of change with us. Here’s to what grows next.

Margaret Moye

Margaret Moye
Grout Museum District Executive Director

FALL PROGRAMS

STORYTIME UNDER THE STARS

SEPT 5, OCT 3, NOV 7 | 9:30AM
AGE: TODDLERS | COST: \$3
NORRIS CORSON FAMILY PLANETARIUM
Enjoy 2-3 toddler friendly books in the planetarium.
Doors open at 9:30AM, stories begin at 10AM.

STAR PARTY

SEPTEMBER 19 | 9PM
PRAIRIE GROVE PARK, WATERLOO | FREE
Join us and Black Hawk Astronomy Club to explore the night sky. Telescopes provided!

FALL/WINTER PLANETARIUM SHOWS

NORRIS CORSON FAMILY PLANETARIUM
TUESDAY – FRIDAY | 3PM
SATURDAY | 11AM, 1:30 & 3PM
For show themes, visit groutmuseumdistrict.org.

OPEN GAME NIGHTS

SEPT 3, OCT 1, NOV 5 | 4-10PM | FREE
SULLIVAN BROTHERS IOWA VETERANS MUSEUM
Join Dark Vassal Gaming and Friendly Meeples for monthly games! Concessions, cash bar available.

MEMBERS ONLY VICTORIAN TEA PARTY

SEPTEMBER 26 | 10AM-NOON
FREE FOR MUSEUM MEMBERS!
SNOWDEN HOUSE
Join us for an exclusive tea reserved just for Museum Members! Celebrate the 165th birthday of the historic Russell House with a delightful tea, and light bites in the Snowden House. Then, continue the celebration with an exclusive guided tour of the Russell House. *Members will receive a link to register via email.*

STROLLING WITH THE SPIRITS

OCTOBER 10 | 3, 7 & 10PM
COST: \$10/\$15 | WATERLOO CEMETERY
PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED
As dusk falls, the past comes to life. Walk among the headstones and meet costumed actors who embody the lives (and deaths) of Waterloo’s most intriguing historical figures.

VETERANS DAY at the SBIVM

NOVEMBER 11 | 10AM-4PM
FREE ADMISSION VETERANS & ACTIVE DUTY
Light refreshments will be available. *Voices of Iowa: D-Day & Pearl Harbor* will be screening in the planetarium and theatre, and write a letter to a Veteran activity will be available for kids.

HARVEST TEA PARTY

NOVEMBER 21 | 10AM-NOON
COST: \$12/\$20 | SNOWDEN HOUSE
PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Celebrate the season with warm autumn flavors, cozy crafts, and festive décor.

For further details and to register for programming visit groutmuseumdistrict.org/calendar.



Grout Museum District
503 South St.
Waterloo, IA 50701

FALL 2026

FRIGHT NIGHT PROM

AN ADULTS ONLY HALLOWEEN BASH!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 7-11PM | COST: \$30/\$40
GROUTMUSEUMDISTRICT.ORG/FRIGHTNIGHT

Dust off your prom attire (and maybe add a little damage) for a Halloween event unlike any other. Join us for an adults only celebration blending nostalgic prom energy with classic Halloween atmosphere and a wink toward horror movie fans. Enjoy dancing, a costume contest, and a signature Blood Bag Punch (non-alcoholic, with a bar upgrade available) included with your ticket. Try your luck at our Mystery Artifact guessing game. A cash bar will also be available.

GROUT Spooktacular

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24 | 5-7PM | COST: FREE

Get ready for a frightfully fun evening at the Museum's annual Grout Spooktacular! Put on your favorite costume and enjoy a free, family-friendly Halloween celebration featuring trick-or-treating throughout the museum, festive activities, and plenty of sweet surprises around every corner.

