

GROUT MUSEUM DISTRICT | TOUCH IT. SEE IT. FEEL IT.

COLLECTIONS

DECEMBER 2025 - FEBRUARY 2026

VOL. C NO. 3



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Fun day camps on Waterloo no school days!

Details inside.

COLLECTIONS HIGHLIGHT



Funding provided by the Gallagher Family Foundation has allowed collections assistant Kent Isaacson to embark upon an exciting project to rehouse and re-inventory the Grout Museum District's entire fossil collection.

GMD's fossil collection was begun over a century ago by Henry Grout himself, and today includes hundreds of specimens of ancient vertebrates, invertebrates, plants, and single-celled organisms.

Kent and volunteers Lilly May, Starr Claussen, and Chris Goarcke are painstakingly identifying each specimen and placing them in new acid-free containers, supported by inert packing materials for long-term storage. This project completes work begun by former collections manager Lorraine Ihnen 15 years ago.



So far, Kent and his team have re-inventoried and rehoused 432 fossils.

Kent has recently succeeded in getting GMD's fossils listed in the online database for the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), a major hub of information for scientific research.

To date, GMD's inventories have been downloaded 293 times by researchers worldwide!

In the coming months, watch for new fossil records in our online collection on our website.



FEATURED EXHIBIT

I SEE LONDON...I SEE FRANCE...THE GROUT HAS LOTS OF UNDERPANTS!

ON DISPLAY THROUGH MAY 30, 2026 | GROUT MUSEUM

Whatcha got under there? Under where? I just made you say underwear! That's exactly what the Grout has on display through May of 2026!

Come see the Museum's collection of undergarments, ranging from crinoline to socks and learn about the style changes to our most intimate items from the nineteenth century to today.

This lighthearted exhibit: *"I see London, I see France...The Grout Has Lots of Underpants!"* will be on display for a "brief" time (you see what we did there?) so make sure you stop in and check it out!

Pictured Above: Good Sense corsets for the whole family, from H. O'Neill & Co. Fashion Catalogue, Fall and Winter, 1890-1891 - Wikimedia Commons

CAMP CURIOUS

JANUARY 16, 2026: SPACE ADVENTURES | APRIL 17, 2026: ECO EXPLORERS
MAY 8, 2026: ARTFUL ENGINEERING
9AM - 4PM | GROUT MUSEUM | \$35 MEMBERS, \$50 NON-MEMBERS
REGISTER AT: GMDISTRICT.ORG/CALENDAR

When Waterloo school is out, curiosity is in! Camp Curious is a special series of day camps for kids ages 6-12, each packed with hands-on activities, creative challenges, and STEAM-powered fun.

WINTER PROGRAMS

REGISTER AT:
GMDISTRICT.ORG/CALENDAR

SENSORY FRIENDLY PLANETARIUM SHOWS
DECEMBER 6, JANUARY 2 & 3, FEBRUARY 7
9:30 AM | AGES 5 & UP | \$3
NORRIS CORSON FAMILY PLANETARIUM

Visit outside of normal hours for a sensory friendly planetarium experience. Planetarium lights will remain dimmed, sound muted, and the planetarium door will remain open. *December's show will be holiday themed!*

TEA PARTIES
DECEMBER 20, 2025 - YULE TIDE
FEBRUARY 14, 2026 - VALENTINES
10AM | SNOWDEN HOUSE
\$12 MEMBERS, \$20 NON-MEMBERS

Join Museum Staff for themed tea parties with treats, crafts, and more!

STORYTIME UNDER THE STARS
DECEMBER 20 & 30, JANUARY 17, FEBRUARY 21
9:30AM | TODDLERS | \$3
NORRIS CORSON FAMILY PLANETARIUM

Snuggle up in your pajamas and bring your favorite stuffed animal for a cozy toddler storytime in our planetarium. Enjoy two delightful books beneath the stars. *December's story will be holiday themed!*

WINTER SPEAKER SERIES
DECEMBER 9, 2025 | CHRISTMAS STAR
JANUARY 13, 2026 | CIVIL WAR
FEBRUARY 10, 2026 | USS HONOLULU
4 - 5PM | GROUT MUSEUM
FREE FOR MEMBERS, \$5 NON-MEMBERS

Topics and speakers include the mystery of the Christmas Star, with David Voigts, a Civil War presentation with Frank McCaw and the powerful story of the USS Honolulu: From Pearl Harbor thru WWII with Don Paustian. A soup supper fundraiser will also be available to support the historic houses.

EVERY CHAPTER COUNTS FILM FESTIVAL

FEBRUARY 28

Further details coming soon.

SPECIAL WINTER BREAK HOURS & SHOWTIMES

CLOSED: DECEMBER 24, 25 & JANUARY 1
PLANETARIUM SHOWS: DECEMBER 23, 26-27,
30-31 AT 11AM, 1:30 & 3PM

STORYTIME UNDER THE STARS: DECEMBER 30,
9:30AM

SENSORY FRIENDLY SHOW: JANUARY 2, 9:30AM



SIPPING ON HISTORY with Margaret

Happy fall, y'all! The crisp temps and colorful trees reflect the changing season as nature winds down to rest for the winter before re-emerging in the spring. We too anticipate a reemergence in the next year, but at the Grout we are far from resting!



After our announcement and closure of the Imaginarium building, we are excited to launch the *Reimagine the Imag* campaign to build the future of our hands-on children's science center at the Grout Museum of History and Science.

We will honor the legacy of Carl and Peggy Bluedorn's vision while embracing the opportunities to bring new life to our facility. We are intentionally planning the space to be more inclusive, sustainable, and engaging for every one of our visitors.

Reimagine the Imag's goal is \$300,000, which will complete the renovation of Howrey Hall, purchase several new exhibits while maintaining public favorites, and support the endowment for the long-term maintenance of the space.

Giving levels include: Supporter (\$1-\$249) | Explorer (\$250+) | Innovator (\$1,000+) | Creator (\$5,000+) | Visionary (\$10,000+)

Donors at every level will be featured on the digital "Wall of Imagination" inside the exhibit itself. If you or your company would like more information about sponsoring an exhibit, please contact me and I'm happy to chat about the range of options.

When old chapters close, they create opportunities to open new ones. The Reimagined Imag will better meet the needs of the children and families who engage in science and discovery, bring science back to the Grout Museum of History and Science to complement the Norris Corson Family Planetarium, and ensure our organization is financially sustainable for the operations of our science center.

I invite you to partner with us in this endeavor and to help us make connections with businesses and industries that support STEM initiatives. Together, we'll continue to spark curiosity, inspire learning, and serve the community we all care so deeply about.

Margaret Moye

Margaret Moye, Executive Director



Grout Museum District
503 South St.
Waterloo, IA 50701

WINTER 25-26



Christmas at Russell Square



December 6, 2025

RENSELAER RUSSELL HOUSE MUSEUM
& SNOWDEN HOUSE

5:00 - 8:00 PM

FREE, BUT DONATIONS ARE ENCOURAGED!

Join the Friends of the Grout Historic Houses for *Christmas at Russell Square*. Tour both historic houses, fully decorated for the season. Enjoy entertainment and light refreshments.

All donations from this event will go towards the maintenance and upkeep of the two historic houses.

