

20 Questions
With
TERESA YOUNG, Director
of



Teresa Young is the definition of Nebraska Nice. Teresa plays many roles in the community, not the least of which is the Director of the Webster County Historical Museum, a position she took on in 2011. Housed in a 1909 classic revival style brick mansion, the Webster County Historical Museum is a beautiful landmark and an outstanding resource for learning about the area's rich pioneering and agricultural history. The four floors of the museum bring to life the early settlers of Webster County. Get to know a little more about one of Red Cloud's most delightful citizens:

What brought you to Red Cloud?

My husband Brad accepted the Postmaster position in June 1989 and we moved here in September of 1989. I was hired as the Library Director for the Auld Public Library in August 1989.

What is your favorite thing about Red Cloud?

The small town living; knowing the people in my community personally.

What is the most difficult thing about being the Director of the Webster County Historical Museum?

Saying "no" to items being donated because they don't pertain to Webster County history or we just don't have room for the item.

What are some things the community could do to support tourism and specifically the museum?

People who live in Webster County need to come and see what “their” museum has! Many people have never been here or haven’t been here since they were children. There’s a lot here that would surprise most people.



Tell me about a place you really like to shop at in Red Cloud. Why do you like shopping there?

I like the Village Pharmacy. They almost always have what I need and I like to be able to get my medications locally. I also love the new “On the Brix”! Very friendly and accommodating.

What’s your favorite exhibit at the Museum? Why?

I love the Ballroom! It’s very unique and the exhibits are awesome! Also, the upstairs bathroom! It was used as a storage room, but I cleaned it out and displayed some items in there so visitors could see how nice it is. And one of my volunteers, Tina Brummett, and I have cleaned out another storage/workroom that was originally a sunroom. We are very excited to have this on display next season!

If you could have a superpower what would it be and why?

The ability to get everything done! There's so much I want to do at the Museum and not enough time to do it all!!

Do you have any hobbies?

I love to read, eat, sleep, and go camping!



This water fountain was once located at the intersection of present-day Hwy 136 and Hwy 281 in downtown Red Cloud. Placed there in 1908 by the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the fountain was removed in 1915 (Yost Schulz <http://walkredcloud.com/?p=356>) and relocated to the Museum years later. There are places for horses, dogs, and humans to drink.

Do you have any pets?

Three dogs: Corky (Chihuahua/Yorkie mix), Petey (Chihuahua) and Bentley (Yorkie)

What is your favorite pastime?

Spending time with family and friends.

What would your high school teachers or guidance counselor say about you if we asked?

I talk a lot!!

What are you most proud of?

My husband and children.

Do you have a mantra or mission statement you live by?

“Do the best you can until you know better, then when you know better, do better!” I heard this said by Maya Angelou on TV once, and I have never forgotten it. My own quote would be something like, “Don’t fault someone for who or what they are, see what their life circumstances are before you judge them.”



What historical figure or celebrity would you most like to spend a week with? Why?

Historical figure would be Dr. Robert Damerell, so I could learn more about the Museum! And of course Willa Cather! She would have lots of information too!

What do you wish more people knew about the Museum?

That we have a 30 room mansion with displays in all rooms except the 3 or 4 used for storage, an Implement Building full of tractors, buggies, a covered wagon, fire department items, a steam engine, a scale model of the Starke Round Barn, and an Exhibit Building with three rooms of displays. There is so much Webster County history and awesome exhibits and displays. And that we have LOTS of genealogy information for Webster County.

Do you have any advice for someone looking to relocate to rural Nebraska?

Be ready for the slow pace of a small town. And enjoy the simple things you can't get in a big city.

What is your favorite song/who is your favorite recording artist?

Favorite song: "God Bless the U.S.A.," by Lee Greenwood. Favorite recording artists: Blake Shelton, Florida Georgia Line, Carrie Underwood, Taylor Swift.....

Who is your favorite writer?

Right now it is James Patterson! I also like Sue Grafton and Marcia Clark and John Grisham.

What is your favorite Red Cloud/Webster County memory?

Coming to Red Cloud as a child and playing on the fire escape at the old grade school! And going up the stairs at the old bank where the Cather Foundation use to be. I can still remember the different mannequin displays as you went up those stairs!

Who has been the biggest influence in your life? Explain why/how.

I would have to say my Mother-in-law, Dorothy Young. She is so kind, gentle, understanding and such a true Christian woman. She never says a harsh word, and she is a very forgiving person. I wish I could be half as great as her!



Contact Info

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The Museum is open 1:00-5:00 p.m. April 1-October 30, except Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and July 4th. *The genealogy department is open year round by appointment.*

In addition to the mansion, be sure to check out the farm implement building and the exhibit building, which features a paleontology exhibit, the "Creating the Plains Community" exhibit, and a different featured exhibit each year. Be sure to check out the Festival of Trees in early December as well!