



# BETWEEN THE PAGES

Plattsmouth Public Library, 401 Ave A, Plattsmouth, NE 68048

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Volume 21 Issue 7

July 2021

## Tails and Tales Summer Reading 2021

Children's Summer Reading is still going strong and Teen Summer Reading is just getting started! New Take and Make bags will be available each Tuesday for both programs through July 27th. The last day to turn in sheets is August 3rd for Children and August 2nd for Teens. Check out some awesome pictures shared with us for the Children's Summer Reading so far!



If you want to share your crafts and achievements, feel free to email us at [plattsmouthpubliclibrary@hotmail.com](mailto:plattsmouthpubliclibrary@hotmail.com) or send us a message on Facebook.





## 2021 TEEN Summer Reading Program!

The Teen Summer Reading Program is for ages 11-18 (grades 6-12) and runs June 29 through July 27 for a total of five weeks. This year, the program has two components. Teens have the choice to participate in one or both programs - the weekly Summer Reading Badge Challenges and the weekly Teen Take and Make craft bags.

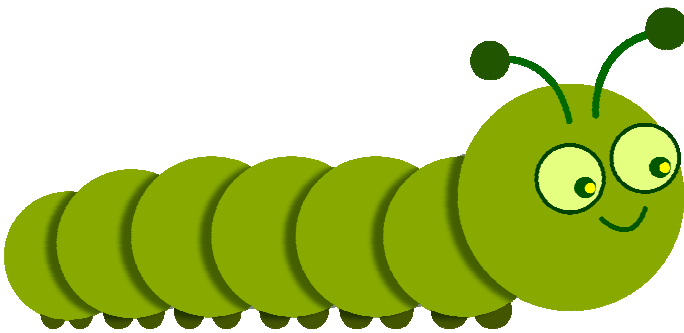
### Teen Take and Make Bags

Each Tuesday a different take and make craft will be available for teens to pick up at the library.

### The Summer Reading Badge Challenges

This portion consists of weekly sheets that teens may pick up at the library or download from the library's website or Facebook page. Each sheet will have five badge challenges. Each challenge will have a list of 3-4 activities (like read for 40 minutes, be active for 35 minutes) that will need to be completed in order to earn a badge. Each participant who completes at least three of the five weekly badge challenges will earn a weekly bonus badge and be able to enter their name in a drawing for gift cards or a book of your choice at the end of the program.

## 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten



The concept is simple, the rewards are priceless. Read a book (any book) to your newborn, infant, and/or toddler. The goal is to read 1,000 books (yes, you can re-read books) before your precious one starts kindergarten. Does it sound hard? It's actually very achievable, if you think about it. If you read just 1 book a night, you will have read about 365 books in a year. That is 730 books in two years and 1,095 books in three years. If you consider that most children start kindergarten at around 5 years of age, you have more time than you think!

We are running a program to help you and your precious one. Just for signing up, you get a reading log, instructions, and an indestructible board book. The reading logs have 100 images to help keep track of your reading. Simply cross out an image for each book read.

Even better, for every sheet completed you get 2 stickers. After 5 sheets, you get another book. After reading 1,000 books, the child gets a nice hardback copy of the Very Hungry Caterpillar with a bookplate for your child's name and the date of completion.

There is no minimum age to getting a library card. Get your little one a library card, and help instill a lifelong love of reading.

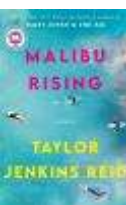
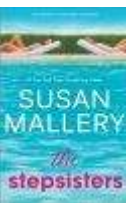
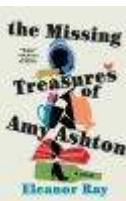
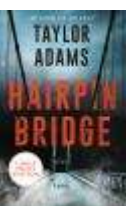
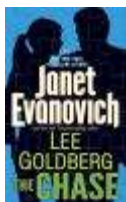
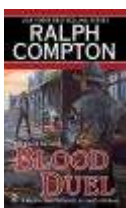
## New Items

**Fiction**

Blood duel by Robbins, David  
 The Bombay prince by Massey, Sujata  
 Bronc man by Bagdon, Paul  
 The bullet by Johansen, Iris  
 Bullet Creek by Brandvold, Peter  
 Castle shade by King, Laurie R.  
 The chase by Evanovich, Janet  
 Daring deception by Freethy, Barbara  
 A dark and secret place by Williams, Jen  
 Deception by gaslight by Belli, Kate  
 Fearless pursuit by Freethy, Barbara  
 The girl with stars in her eyes by Axelrod, Xio  
 Golden Girl by Hilderbrand, Elin  
 Hairpin Bridge by Adams, Taylor  
 The heist by Evanovich, Janet  
 Hellfire Canyon by McCoy, Max  
 Little darlings by Golding, Melanie  
 Loitering with intent by Woods, Stuart  
 The maidens by Michaelides, Alex  
 Malibu rising by Reid, Taylor Jenkins  
 The missing treasures of Amy Ashton by Ray, Eleanor  
 Murder in the bayou boneyard by Byron, Ellen  
 The one hundred years of Lenni and Margot by Cronin, Marianne  
 One two three by Frankel, Laurie  
 The other black girl by Harris, Zakiya Dalila  
 A peculiar combination by Weaver, Ashley  
 The photographer by Carter, Mary Dixie  
 The plot by Korelitz, Jean Hanff  
 The Satapur moonstone by Massey, Sujata  
 The stepsisters by Mallery, Susan  
 The sweetness of water by Harris, Nathan  
 Three missing days by Coble, Colleen  
 Unfinished business by Jance, Judith A.  
 Where the grass is green and the girls are pretty by Weisberger, Lauren  
 Wildland by Hodge, Rebecca  
 The winemaker's wife by Harmel, Kristin

**Large Print**

The final twist by Deaver, Jeffery  
 The first day of Spring by Tucker, Nancy  
 Hairpin Bridge by Adams, Taylor  
 Love for beginners by Shalvis, Jill  
 Malibu rising by Reid, Taylor Jenkins  
 The one hundred years of Lenni and Margot by Cronin, Marianne  
 While justice sleeps by Abrams, Stacey

**Audiobooks**

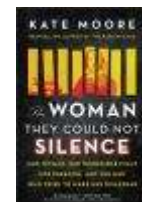
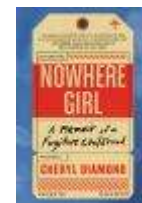
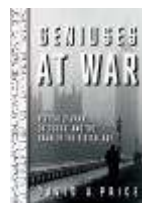
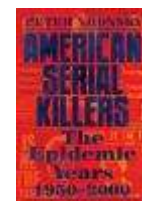
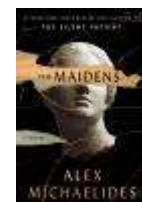
The bullet by Johansen, Iris  
 The Devil's hand by Carr, Jack  
 Golden girl by Hilderbrand, Elin  
 A good mother by Bazelon, Lara  
 Good neighbors by Langan, Sarah  
 Local woman missing by Kubica, Mary  
 The maidens by Michaelides, Alex  
 Malibu rising by Reid, Taylor Jenkins  
 Mirrorland by Johnstone, Carole  
 Mother may I by Jackson, Joshilyn  
 The photographer by Carter, Mary Dixie  
 The plot by Korelitz, Jean Hanff  
 Six weeks to live by McKenzie, Catherine  
 The stepsisters by Mallery, Susan  
 The summer seekers by Morgan, Sarah  
 Unfinished business by Jance, Judith A.  
 While justice sleeps by Abrams, Stacey

**Non-Fiction**

American serial killers by Vronsky, Peter  
 The Bomber Mafia by Gladwell, Malcolm  
 The book of lymph by Gainsley, Lisa Levitt  
 Ethel Rosenberg by Sebba, Anne  
 Fodor's 25 best. London by Nicholson, Louise  
 Fodor's essential China  
 Fodor's essential France by Hervieux, Linda  
 Geniuses at war by Price, David A.  
 Mercury rising by Shesol, Jeff  
 The Mueller report by Mueller, Robert S  
 My remarkable journey by Johnson, Katherine G.  
 No recipe? No problem! by Good, Phyllis  
 Pellman  
 Nowhere girl by Diamond, Cheryl  
 Out of many, one by Bush, George W.  
 Perfectly golden by Garbacz, Angela  
 Talking back by Hazard, Rowland  
 What happened to you? by Perry, Bruce  
 Duncan  
 The woman they could not silence by Moore, Kate  
 Zero fail by Leonnig, Carol

**Teen**

All our hidden gifts by O'Donoghue, Caroline  
 The edge of anything by Carpenter, Nora  
 The follower by Doughty, Kate  
 The forest of stolen girls by Hur, June  
 Go the distance by Calonita, Jen  
 The lake by Preston, Natasha  
 Luck of the Titanic by Lee, Stacey  
 Moon called by Briggs, Patricia

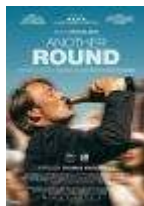


Continued on page 4.

New Items...Continued from page 3.

**Video**

Another round  
 Body brokers  
 Country at heart  
 Crisis  
 The father  
 The healing garden  
 The marksman  
 Midsomer murders. Series 19, parts 1&2  
 Midsomer murders. Series 20-25  
 My brother's keeper  
 Raya and the last dragon  
 Senior moment  
 Trigger point  
 A Valentine's match  
 Vera. Set 9, 10

**Non-Fiction Video**

American experience. The codebreaker

**Video Games**

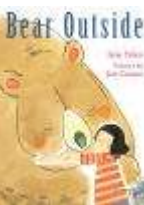
Minecraft.

**Beginning Reader**

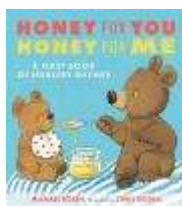
Bunny will not be quiet! by Tharp, Jason  
 Bunny will not jump! by Tharp, Jason  
 Bunny will not smile! by Tharp, Jason  
 Llama Llama dance recital fun

**Board Books**

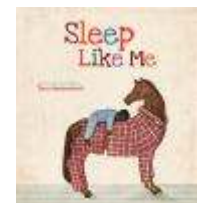
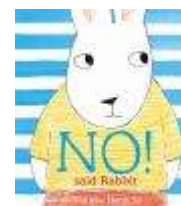
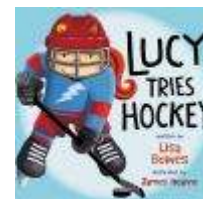
How big is Zagnodd? by Boynton, Sandra  
 Jungle night by Boynton, Sandra  
 Tad and Dad by Stein, David Ezra

**Easy**

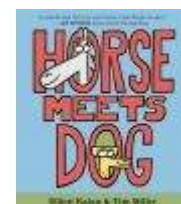
Bear outside by Yolen, Jane  
 A boy named Isamu by Yang, James  
 Butts are everywhere by Stutzman, Jonathan  
 Clothesline clues to the first day of school by Heling, Kathryn  
 Ducks on the road by Lobel, Anita  
 Faraway things by Eggers, Dave  
 Fred gets dressed by Brown, Peter  
 Froggy goes to Grandma's by London, Jonathan  
 Froggy's lemonade stand by London, Jonathan  
 Grumpycorn by McIntyre, Sarah  
 Honey for you, honey for me  
 How I learned to fall out of trees by Kirsch, Vincent X  
 I do not like Yolanda by Abbott, Zoey  
 I'm a hare, so there! by Rowan-Zoch, Julie



The little library by McNamara, Margaret  
 Little Sock by Heise, Kia  
 Little Sock makes a friend by Heise, Kia  
 Look behind! by Schaefer, Lola M  
 Looking for Smile by Tarlow, Ellen  
 The lost little bird by McPhail, David  
 Lucy tries hockey by Bowes, Lisa  
 Mary had a little lab by Fliess, Sue  
 Meet me by the sea by Levi, Taltal  
 Millie shares by Alexander, Claire  
 Mixed me! by Diggs, Taye  
 My friend by Diggs, Taye  
 The new neighbors by McIntyre, Sarah  
 No! said Rabbit by Henrichs, Marjoke  
 Numbers everywhere by Strauss, Linda  
 Leopold  
 Ollie's school day by Calmenson, Stephanie  
 Penguin's Christmas wish by Yoon, Salina  
 Phoebe and Digger by Springstubb, Tricia  
 Sleep like me by Nadareishvili, Tatia  
 Strollercoaster by Ringler, Matt  
 Sunny-side up by Davis, Jacky  
 A tiger without stripes by Whitbread, Jaimie  
 Yes & no by Cooper, Elisha

**Vox Books**

Cloudy with a chance of meatballs by Barrett, Judi  
 Horse meets Dog by Kalan, Elliott  
 If you ever want to bring a piano to the beach, don't! by Parsley, Elise  
 Looking for Smile by Tarlow, Ellen  
 Lulu the one and only by Mawhinney, Lynnette  
 Pine & Boof : the lucky leaf by Burach, Ross  
 Sorry (really sorry) by Cotler, Joanna  
 Tad by Davies, Benji  
 A tiger without stripes by Whitbread, Jaimie  
 The tiny baker by Barrett, Hayley

**Adopt-a-Book**

A dark and secret place by Williams, Jen  
 Hairpin bridge by Adams, Taylor  
 Little darlings by Golding, Melanie

*A complete list of new titles can be found on our website, [www.plattsmouthlibrary.org](http://www.plattsmouthlibrary.org), under New Titles.*

# Fate and the Johnson Gang, Part One

Harlan Seyfer,  
Plattsmouth Main Street Historian



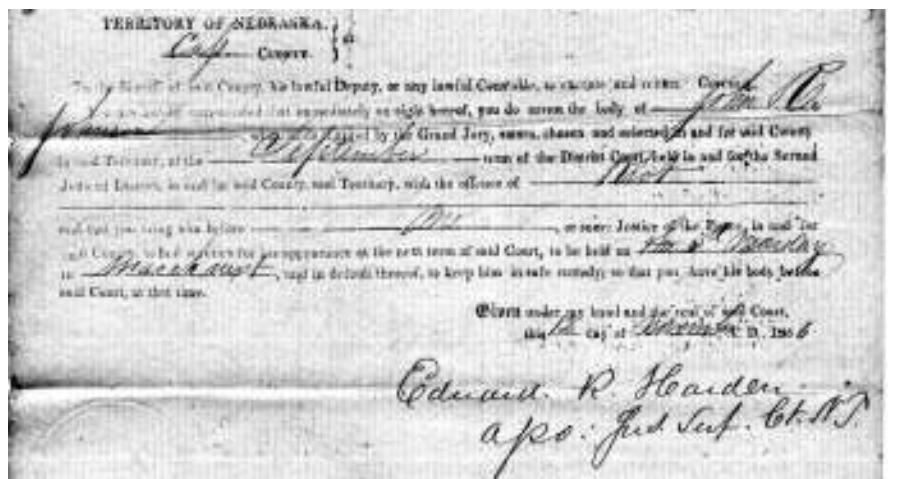
William Winterstein (described last month) and Perry Gass studied medicine together in Ohio, and thus Gass met Winterstein's sister Hannah, whom, in due course, he married in 1856. The couple moved to Red Oak, Iowa, where they met Turner Marquette. The latter soon departed for Plattsmouth in the new Territory of Nebraska. That was not the end of their friendship, and the couple decided to join their good friend less than a year later.

In 1907, the *Plattsmouth Journal* described Perry and Hanna's welcome to Nebraska:

Contracting with a teamster to take [them] to Plattsmouth, they after a torturous and extremely hard trip arrived at East Plattsmouth [on the Iowa bank of the Missouri]. This was in the early spring.... He with his wife and another woman engaged passage in a canoe and crossed to this side. In order to get to town they had to come over the hills, and when getting on top of the hill just the other side of Happy Hollow [south of Plattsmouth], they encountered a squad of men in double file, which opened ranks for the three strangers, and after having passed the first few they were stopped and asked where they were going, and it being about dark, Mr. Gass and the two women were somewhat puzzled, as on close inspection all of the men were heavily armed. Great was the relief of mind of the small party when T. M. Marquette stepped out of the ranks and grasping Mr. Gass by the hand, saying at the same time, "Well, if this is not my old friend, Perry Gass." They were then allowed to pass, and came on down town. This was a very memorable night in the early history of Plattsmouth, for in that night a family by the name of Johnson entirely disappeared, who had been suspected of being members of a gang of horse thieves.

Gertrude Wood, in her marvelous little book *Glimpses into Early Cass County*, writes of the Johnson Gang:

In historical publications from the late 1800's and in journals and diaries of early Cass County pioneers, we often come across the name "The Johnson Gang" or the "Kelly Johnson Gang." The location of their headquarters or rendezvous is mentioned as being in several areas. One gives the location at Fremont's Point at Plattsmouth, another journal has it near the Mullen Ranch in western Cass County. Still another locates it south of Rock Bluff. In all probability there was no one hideout. To be successful the gang probably dispersed to different locations after their excursions, where they tried to keep a low profile until their next venture. The gang was said to include Lewis Johnson and his son John, along with Tom (Old Man) Kelly and his son, a Thomas Massey, and thirteen other men who remain nameless. Lewis Johnson was



Arrest Warrant for John R. Johnson for Riot Signed by Edward R. Harden, One of the First Justices of the Nebraska Territorial Supreme Court (Image cropped and enhanced)

— Clerk of Cass County District Court Records

Continued on page 6.

Continued from page 5.

said to be the brains of the outfit, while Old Man Kelly, the bulbous-nosed old Irishman, was said to be top gun. Kelly was said to have had a mean streak that ran from the top of his red head to the point of his boots.

In both the 1854 and 1855 territorial census, there appears the name L. Johnson in Cass County. He had two sons over 21 and his occupation is listed as farmer. A farm would have been a good cover-up for a cattle rustling and horse theft operation. I do not know if this L. Johnson is our outlaw, but it does seem likely. I do not find the name Kelly listed for Cass County at this time, but there is a T. Kelly listed for Sarpy County and he had a son over 21. Perhaps this was the villainous Old Tom who crossed the Platte to do his robbing.

Fremont Point is just south of Plattsmouth Bridge, where John Fremont's expedition coming up the river for a night camped in 1842.

The gang was notorious, their notoriety not limited to the Nebraska side of the Missouri River. On Saturday, 25 June 1853, William Creech was hunting with a group of neighbors south of Glenwood, Iowa, when they encountered another group of men target shooting. After a brief conversation, Lewis Johnson claimed that one of his sons could outshoot anyone in the hunting party. Mr. Creech stepped forward to accept the challenge and bets were quickly laid.

When the scores were added up, Creech was the clear winner. This "exasperated Johnson to such a degree that he at once made an assault on Mr. Creech," wrote the *History of Mills County, Iowa* in 1881. Johnson struck Creech on the head with his musket and again in the face, his musket ramrod entering Creech's eye. Creech died within forty-eight hours. Johnson was arrested and tried for manslaughter in Council Bluffs, but was acquitted for reasons never clearly stated.

In mid-1854, Nebraska Territory opened for settlement, and the Johnsons, being of the type that could only survive on the edge of the frontier, took up residence, as Wood noted, in no particular place. But they didn't escape the notice of their neighbors for long.

By September 1856, a grand jury was empaneled in Plattsmouth specifically to examine the activities of the Johnson clan and its associates. Quite possibly this was the first grand jury convened in Cass County – with good reason, as we shall see.

In its first indictment, the grand jury found that John R. Johnson, one of Lewis Johnson's sons, had assaulted William Frans, a farmer living near Union, on August 11, 1856. The grand jury also handed down an indictment for "Riot" against Seth Johnson, John R. Johnson, William Collins, Frederick Tatter, William Rains, and John Johnson [sic], stating that the defendants "did on the 11th day of August AD 1856 at the County of Cass and Territory of Nebraska did violently and with force and arms in a violent and tumultuous manner strike at, threaten and otherwise abuse Samuel Maxwell & Henry T. Dole." Perhaps the gang should have chosen their victims more carefully. Samuel Maxwell would become a Nebraska Supreme Court Judge, and was a thorough advocate of law and order. All well and good, but as the author of *Johnson's History of Nebraska* wrote, "There was no machinery for assessing fines; no jails or prisons; hence little or no attempt was made to grade the punishment according to the offense." Next month we will explore the twists and turns in the fate of the Johnson Gang.

Record of Arrest  
of John R. Johnson  
by Sheriff William  
R. Ellington.

Sheriff Ellington  
received the  
warrant on 18  
September 1806,  
then arrested and  
delivered Johnson  
to the court on the  
same day.

The Sheriff's fee  
for serving the  
warrant and  
arresting Johnson  
was 50¢ plus 40¢  
for mileage.

This is one of  
several warrants  
Sheriff Ellington  
used to arrest  
Johnson that day.

— Clerk of Cass  
County District Court

Bench Warrant  
for  
John R. Johnson  
Lays to hand, Sept.  
18th 1856 -  
Personally served  
the within writ by  
arresting the within  
named John R. Johnson  
and bringing him  
into the court, this  
18th day of Sept. 1856 -  
New Power 50  
cents by 40 40  
90  
W. R. Ellington  
Sheriff of Cass Co.  
Neb.

## Tails and Tales Adult Summer Reading

August 1-31

Don't feel left out, adults! Enjoy reading and four fun challenges each week in August for a total of 16 challenges! Starting August 1, adults can pick up reading sheets and challenge sheets. Challenges include crossword puzzles,

Sudoku, and finding historical markers around town. Enter your name in a drawing for prizes for each book read in July and August and for each challenge completed. The more you do, the more entries you will have in the drawing for gift cards or a book of your choice (up to \$25 library cost). The last day to turn in sheets is August 31. Names will be drawn on September 6.



### Adult Take and Make bags



June's Take and Make bag, Wind Chimes, was available June 28, and they were all taken by June 29. There will be a new Take and Make bag on July 26. Arrive early to get one.



## Book Sale August 6-29th



# July 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Teen Challenges every week	Children's Challenges Every Week		1 Storytime 10-10:30	2	3
4 Library Closed Summer Reading Program all week	5 Library Closed	6	7 Storytime 10-10:30	8 Storytime 10-10:30 Disaster Recovery 3-7pm	9	10
11 Summer Reading Program all week	12 Woodcarvers Noon-3pm	13 Bridge Commission 4-5pm	14 Storytime 10-10:30	15 Storytime 10-10:30	16	17
18 Summer Reading Program all week	19 Woodcarvers Noon-3pm	20	21 Storytime 10-10:30	22 Storytime 10-10:30	23	24 Teen Clued In Murder Mystery 7pm
25 Summer Reading Program all week	26 Adult Craft Bag Woodcarvers Noon-3pm	27	28 Storytime 10-10:30	29 Storytime 10-10:30	30	31

# August 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Adult Summer Reading Starts	2 Final Day to turn in Teen Challenges	3 Final Day to Turn in Children's Challenges	4 Storytime 10-10:30	5 Storytime 10-10:30	6 BOOK SALE STARTS	7
8	9 Woodcarvers Noon-3pm	10 Bridge Commission 4-5pm	11 Storytime 10-10:30	12 Storytime 10-10:30	13	14
15	16 Woodcarvers Noon-3pm	17	18 Storytime 10-10:30	19 Storytime 10-10:30	20	21
22	23 Adult Craft Bag 5-6pm Friends of the Library Woodcarvers	24	25 Storytime 10-10:30 Library Board 5:30	26 Storytime 10-10:30	27	28
29 LAST DAY OF BOOK SALE	30 Woodcarvers Noon-3pm	31 Last day to turn in Adult Challenges				