The Dawson County Historical Society & Museum is sponsoring several historical-based events June 11-12 for the Plum Creek Celebration.

The Dawson County area was one of the most noted sections on the Oregon Trail during early pioneer history of its road ranches, Pony Express, wagon trains, Indian uprisings and military encampments.

Jeff Barnes, Nebraska Humanities speaker, will present Forts of the Northern Plains and Dawson County Military Posts at 7 p.m. on Friday, June 11.

Barnes is a fifth-generation Nebraskan, former newspaper reporter and editor, past chairman of the Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission and former marketing director for the Durham Western Heritage Museum. He has traveled more than 13,000 miles in research and photographing forts for his book, “Forts of the Northern Plains.”

This presentation is free to the public and is made possible by the Nebraska Humanities Council to the museum as part of the NHC Speakers Bureau.

Stephanie Grace Whitson, best-selling author will weave her story of Sixteen Brides. Her presentation is free to the public Saturday, June 12, at 2 p.m.

Whitson “unearthed the real story” behind her imaginary tale from the Dawson County Historical Museum’s archives to base her fictional setting on historical information from Plum Creek, now Lexington.

She set her characters in this new novel in post-Civil War of the 16 young war widows moving cross-country for the promise of a new life in this small-town in Nebraska.

Quilt Story Identification is special event being offered by the Whitson as a fund-raiser for the museum. A historical assessment will be made on heirloom quilts based on its style, fabrics, patterns and other information.

This identification process will be scheduled per person and quilt for a 15-minute session with the $10 fee donated to the Dawson County Historical Society.

Whitson has a wealth of knowledge to tell the unique story of quilts and their legacies based on historical evaluations and not financial appraisal, according to Barb Vondras, museum director. Sessions will be available only from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 12.

“The Historical Society and Museum is excited to offer these presentations on Dawson County historical backgrounds,” Vondras said. “We invite everyone to learn about the importance of the posts in the county to our national historical legacy as well as how researchers today use history to tell new stories of our pioneer heritage.”

The museum has a gallery exhibit on Pony Express 150th celebration, Post Plum Creek and Post Millillias, and Plum Creek Days along with other new exhibits, quilt display and the new children’s interactive area. For more information, call 308-324-5340, Tuesday-Saturday.