



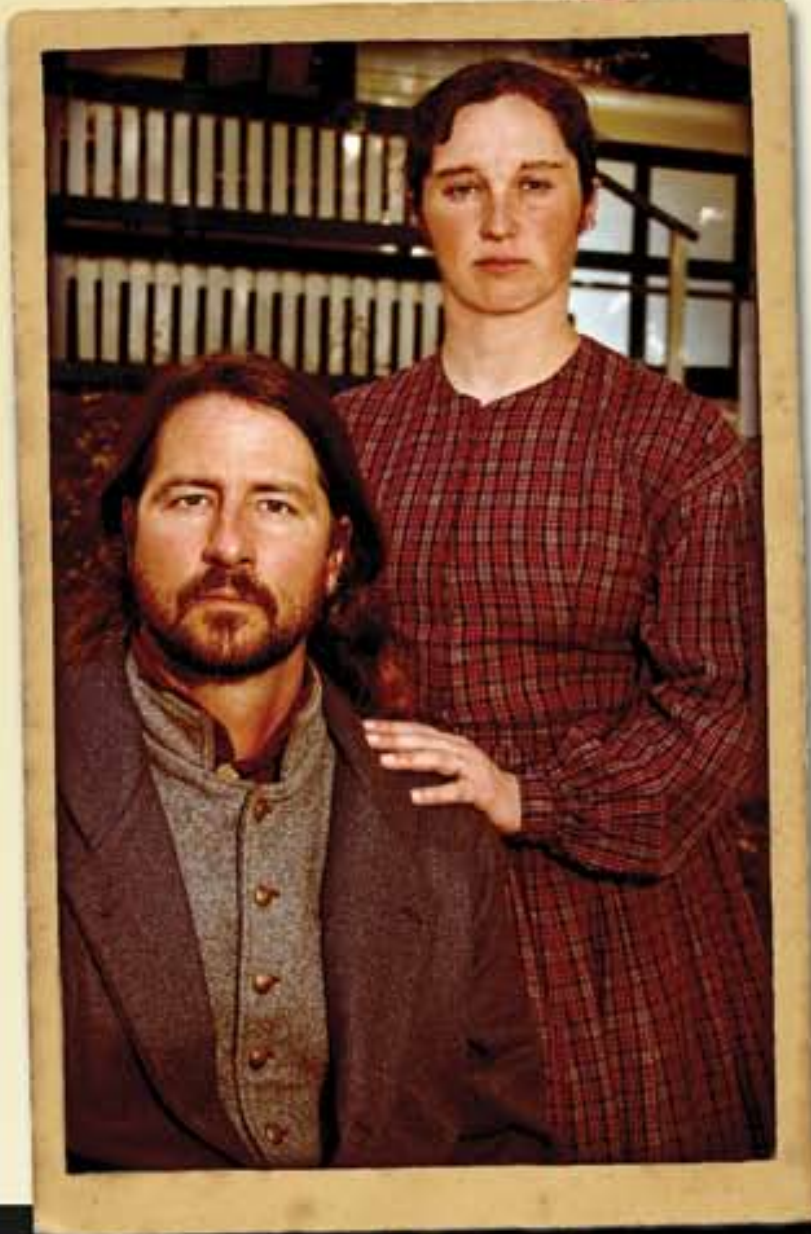
# Collins Road Theatre

By Ann Cejka and Ciuin-Ferrin

Bruce Taylor, owner of the Collins Road Theater, and his staff are all about the community. On Tuesday, December 8 at 7:15pm, the theater will show **Love and Valor**, an independent film created by Charles Larimer. Proceeds will be shared equally between two local organizations that were devastated by the flood waters last summer.

Filmed on location at Ushers Ferry, 5925 Seminole Valley Trail, N.E. in Cedar Rapids with actors from the Henry Davison Youth Center, 1006 3<sup>rd</sup> Street S.E. in Cedar Rapids, the film **Love and Valor** is the story of Captain Jacob and Emmeline Ritner. Captain Ritner, in the Union Army from Iowa, was a teacher, farmer and abolitionist before the war. The story tells of their devotion to each other, their passion for their country, their pain of loneliness, their hatred of slavery, and their anguish at the death of loved ones.

"When Charlie approached Ushers Ferry as a location, I wasn't expecting to become as involved in the production as I did," said Ann Cejka of Ushers Ferry. "Ushers Ferry has been used for commercials, short films and student projects. Usually, my involvement is limited to what buildings and objects they can use and helping them find costumes and extras. I didn't think I'd have that large a role in the project. I couldn't have been more wrong. At the first meeting with Charlie, he took one look at Brian and at me and said: "You two will be perfect as Jacob and Emmaline. You look exactly like them."





# Hosts Flood Benefit

"Most of the scenes for **Love and Valor** were shot at Ushers Ferry in 2004," said Cejka. "It was a lot of fun, as most of the actors and extras were friends from the re-enacting community and from the H.D. Youth Center, but we quickly learned that movie making is not nearly as glamorous as people think," said Cejka. "Lights have to be set; shots have to be framed. Sometimes you're filming a scene in November when it's supposed to be July and you're standing around in 30 degree weather in your shirtsleeves and trying to look like you're sweating instead of freezing to death."

"It took Charlie some time to finish the movie," said Cejka. "I had forgotten about it when he emailed me and said he was finished and was considering a premiere in Cedar Rapids with the proceeds to benefit flood recovery for both Ushers Ferry and the Henry Davison Youth Center."

The home of the H.D. Youth Center has been damaged beyond repair. Henry Davison is hoping to raise funds to build the new home for the center on the land the Center owns on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, S.E. He still runs programs and needs help to help the kids. He serves a free breakfast every morning Monday through Friday, a free Thanksgiving Dinner, and a free Christmas Dinner. Davison is truly a wonderful man who is as passionate about helping his kids.

"Looking back on it now, I like to think of our experience of filming **Love and Valor** at Ushers Ferry as a good deed that has come back to repay us when we need it most," said Cejka. "Much of the recovery and

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restoration efforts at Ushers Ferry will depend upon us raising private funding and obtaining grants. The dollars raised and donated to the Ushers Ferry flood recovery fund have been used as match money for grants to stabilize and restore buildings for which FEMA dollars will not be applied. Our Town Hall is a great example of that. We were able to raise \$5,000 last fall in flood recovery donations, and leveraged that to obtain a \$10,000 grant from the Iowa State Historical Society. The building is now completely finished and we should have it ready to open as a school house for school tours next spring."

The HD Youth Center and Ushers Ferry are grateful to both Charlie Larimer who proposed the idea, and to Bruce Taylor who has so generously offered his theater and advice. If there is one thing the flood has taught Cejka, it's that the key to surviving hardship is what she refers to the four P's: Passion, Persistence, Planning and Prayer.

"I think that's something that Jacob and Emmaline Rittner understood a hundred and forty odd years ago, and I think it's something that the Ushers Ferry and the H.D. Youth Center staff understand today."

If you want to help Henry Davison help the needy children of Cedar Rapids, contact him at 319.329.8841, or come to the film. For more information on the movie premier call 319.286.5731. You'll be helping a great cause, see a fantastic movie and have some wonderful popcorn topped with REAL BUTTER!

