



Spend a Day in Clay!

DO the History

Peterson is the oldest community in Clay County. It is located along Hwy. 10 in southwest Clay County. You can spend the entire day visiting museums here – however, they do prefer appointments in advance.

Visit the CVB website (www.ExploreClayCounty.org) for more details or call the Tourism Director to arrange a tour.

- Visit the first frame dwelling in Peterson and Clay County, which is known as the Christian Kirchner Home. The home was built in 1867 and is standing on the original site, with only minor structural changes made.
- Enjoy a fascinating glimpse of how farming practices began by walking through the Kirchner Farm Museum. Look for the covered wagon inside! That wagon made a trip in 1898 to Yellowstone National Park and returned back to Iowa.
- One of the first frame country schoolhouses built in Clay, is the Rock Forest School. The schoolhouse gives visitors a sense of how classes were taught in the early 1900s.
- Make your way to the J.A. (Gust) Kirchner House, which is a “must see” for historians. The home’s beautiful design, antique furniture, and historical pieces are fascinating.
- In addition, the Philip Kirchner Cabin is a historic landmark still standing on the original site. The cabin is located north of the Kirchner Park on a gravel road.
- Fort Peterson was one of a string of forts constructed in 1862-1863 by troops during the Civil War known as the Northern Border Brigade. Fort Peterson’s blockhouse is the only remaining vestige of the entire fortification chain still standing.
- Jim’s History Barn is a restored 1928 barn featuring private collections of Indian artifacts, hunting and fishing displays, mounted wildlife, and war memorabilia ranging from the 1700s – WWII.

After a day of exploring the historical sites in Peterson, you will want to stop by Lon’s Lounge. This hometown restaurant features different specials each night. Friday night is Prime Rib Night, which many locals claim is the best prime rib around. Their soup and salad bar includes homemade items.

