

## 2019 Bio Michael Zahs



Michael Zahs is from a farm family that has been in North America since the 1600's and Iowa for over 200 years. Zahs attended a one-room school and started teaching there when he was in the third grade. He has taught all levels of students from pre-school to graduate school. He taught science and Iowa History to junior high students for 39 years. He has won a number of state and national teaching awards. Michael has many collections, most with a strong Iowa connection, including quilts and coverlets, stoneware, tools, feed sacks, buildings (especially log), nativities, Grant Wood art, and old varieties of plants. In 1981 he obtained a collection of many thousands of items that had belonged to Frank and Indiana Brinton of Washington, Iowa. The Brintons were pioneering traveling projection entertainers, beginning in the 1870's. This collection contains about 130 of the oldest moving pictures in the world, and 700 magic lantern slides. Three Iowa documentarians followed the story of the old films for years, which led to the film "Saving Brinton". Michael has worked with Red Cedar Chamber Music since 2000. He traveled with Red Cedar for four seasons. One season was with Brinton films set to music, one season was Brinton magic lantern slides set to music, and two seasons of Civil War letters and readings set to music. A new set of old movies are being scored for the 2020 Red Cedar season. Michael and his wife Julie live on a farm and have two adult children, Hannah and Adam.