
WHITE COUNTY HISTORIAN

Volume 21, Issue 3

July - September, 2015



"Preserving and
Promoting our History"

2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

PIONEER DAYS FOR WHITE
COUNTY 5TH GRADERS
WITH THE RETIRED
TEACHER'S ASSOC.
MATSEL CABIN
SEPTEMBER 29-30

OCTOBER

CORN TASTING ON CORN DAY
RATCLIFF INN
OCTOBER 10
11 AM - 1 PM

NOVEMBER

FALL DINNER MEETING
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
NOVEMBER 9

WCHS RUMMAGE SALE
FARM BUREAU BUILDING
NOVEMBER 20-21

MUSEUMS OPEN DURING
WHITE COUNTY CHRISTMAS

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

Summer is over and I am still wondering where it went. Time seems to fly when you are busy and we have been busy these past few months. The first weekend in August, we began our program to open up one of our museums each Sunday afternoon. Although well publicized, attendance has been very sparse so we have decided to temporarily suspend the program until the spring. The museums will be open on Corn Day and we will continue to open the museums on holidays and by appointment.

We had scheduled Pioneer Days for the county 5th graders for 29-30 September. Unfortunately, rain forced us to cancel activities for the 29th. However, the 30th turned out to be a gorgeous day so Pioneer Days for 2015 was not a total washout. Like the tea parties, orchestrating "Pioneer Days" and other educational programs for our local youth requires a group effort. Despite the cancellation on the 29th, this year's event was still deemed successful thanks to the many volunteers who gave of their time and talents.

Next on the agenda is Corn Day on 10 October followed by our Fall dinner at the First Christian Church in Carmi on 9 November. We hope to give you a very special program paying tribute to our local World War II veterans. Seven WW II veterans have shared their stories of the period that we have captured on video. Although we will maintain unedited versions of each recording, time constraints require us to edit segments of each veteran's story that will be merged onto one video that will be played following dinner. We will also recognize each of these men during the program.

Mary McRoy is orchestrating a rummage sale for 20-21 November to benefit the WCHS. It will be held at the Farm Bureau building and she is seeking support from the membership for items and time. Please contact Mary for additional information.

Finally, as mentioned in the last newsletter, our membership has seen a gradual decline over the past few years. If you have friends or relatives who are not members, encourage them to join the White County Historical Society. If we are to preserve our county's history for future generations, we need your support and talent.

Gene Jordan, President ✍

NEWS FROM THE MARY SMITH FAY GENEALOGY LIBRARY

by: Librarian Diane Waggoner

PO Box 121, 203 North Church St., Carmi, IL
618-382-8425 email: w.c.h.s-genealogy@hotmail.com
11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Tuesday - Friday

Don't know where this came from, but I don't think I would want to do a family search on this family, would you?

Many many years ago when I was but twenty three,
I got married to a widow who was as pretty as can be.
This widow had a grown-up daughter who had hair of red.
My father fell in love with her, and soon the two were wed.
This made my Dad my son-in-law and changed my very life.
My daughter was my mother, for she was my father's wife.
To complicate the matters worse, although it brought me joy.
I soon became the father of a bouncing baby boy.
My little baby then became a brother-in-law to dad.
And so became my uncle, though it made me very sad.
For if he was my uncle, then that also made him brother to the widow's grown-up
daughter...who, of course, was my step-mother.
Father's wife then had a son, who kept them on the run.
And he became my grandson, for he was my daughter's son.
My wife is now my mother's mother and it makes me blue.
Because, although she is my wife, she is my grandma too.
If my wife is my grandmother, then I am her grandchild.
And every time I think of it, it simply drives me wild.
For now I have become the strangest case you ever saw.
As the husband of my grandmother, I am my own grandpa.

RESEARCH FEES

If you would like us to do research for you (White County area only), please contact us.
Cost of research is \$15 per hour. Copies are 20 - 25¢ each. Shipping & handling is \$5.

Come and visit us and we will help you do your research at no cost to you, all you pay for is
the cost of copies.

CLEANING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ROBINSON-STEWART HOUSE

by: Mary McRoy

The Historical Society needs help to keep Miss Mary Jane's home ready for visitors. Dusting and sweeping once a month should do it. Call Mary McRoy at 382-8521 to join the "clean team" and we'll schedule a time at the Robinson Stewart House. Thanks. ✍

PIONEER DAYS 2015

by: Gene Jordan

Weather can be rather fickle and after almost six weeks of zero to little precipitation, mother nature decided to give White County and the surrounding areas a drink of water on September 29—so much water that we had to cancel day one of “Pioneer Days.” Unfortunately, this prevented Carmi and Grayville 5th graders from experiencing this annual event sponsored by the WCHS. School, bus and volunteer schedules precluded us from establishing a make-up day.

However, day two turned out to be one of the nicest days one could have asked for and Norris City and Enfield 5th graders got to experience what life was like during the late 1800’s and early 1900’s. With the help of more than 20 volunteers, including many members of the White County Retired Teachers Association, students were shown how to make butter, wash and dry clothes; introduced to early 20th century farm life to include animals that might have been present on some farms; and the drying and grinding of corn to make flour and meal. They were given a class in the one room school house and introduced to games students would have played long before the advent of computers and related electronics. They were also shown what life would have been like living in a two room cabin without running water, and given a history lesson and tour of Carmi’s “Old Graveyard”. Here are just few photos of 2015 “Pioneer Days.” ✍

Valarie Berekashvili
demonstrating laundry techniques.





Trish Pringle welcoming students to the Matsel Cabin.

Donnie Seitz demonstrating the making of flour and corn meal.



Students looking at some of the animals (rabbits and ducklings) in the yard.



Tom Smith demonstrating corn grinding.



Josephine Hubele showing how butter is made.



Richard Raber demonstrating how to dry corn.

ESTATE GIFTS - SIMPLER THAN YOU THINK

If you would really like to help the White County Historical Society but are not inclined to do so during your lifetime, you may be pleased to know that there are some simple ways to make a gift to the Society through your estate. Following are a few of the simplest and most popular ways to do so.

1. Simply instruct your attorney to name the White County Historical Society as a beneficiary in your will or trust using the language below.
2. List the White County Historical Society as a beneficiary of an insurance policy, retirement account or tax-deferred annuity. Simply request a "change of beneficiary form" and use the language below to fill it out.
3. Fill out a Transfer of Death (TOD) form where you hold your investments using the language below.
4. Request a Totten Trust form from your bank and list the White County Historical Society as a beneficiary of your account(s), once again using the language below.

"_____to the White County Historical Society to be used in the ongoing stewardship of its buildings and grounds, the conservation of its artifacts and the continuation of its educational programs."

GENEALOGY QUERY

If you have a query, please send it to the Mary Smith Fay Genealogy Library and we can add it to the next newsletter.

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

We know that many of you have stories about a historical event of White County. We would welcome having your story to include in future editions of the White County Historian. Write your story, include your name, and mail it to Mary Smith Fay Genealogical Library at P.O. Box 121, Carmi, IL or email to rshous@gmail.com. Then watch for it in future editions of the newsletter.

MISSION STATEMENT

To preserve and promote the historical interest of White County through our stewardship of its artifacts and the historic sites and education programs and exhibits that we provide for its people

VISION STATEMENT

To make the history of White County come alive for the people of White County

MUSEUMS



Ratcliff Inn
218 E. Main Street

The L. Haas Museum
219 E. Main Street

Robinson-Stewart House
111- S. Main Cross Street

Matsel Cabin
East Robinson Street

Our museums, located in Carmi, Illinois, are open on advertised dates or by appointment only:

CONTACT INFORMATION

- ✉ Mailing Address: White County Historical Society
Mary Smith Fay Genealogy Library
PO Box 121
203 North Church Street
Carmi, Illinois 62821-0121
- ✉ Email: rshous@gmail.com
- ✉ To make an appointment to visit our museums, contact the librarian at the Mary Smith Fay Genealogy Library: call 618-382-8425 or email w.c.h.s-genealogy@hotmail.com
- ✉ If you have an item you are interested in donating to the society, contact Suellen Smith at 618-384-5672
- ✉ Comments, suggestions or contributions for the newsletter can be mailed to the address above or to rshous@gmail.com. Please include "newsletter" in the subject line.

AFFILIATIONS

The Society maintains memberships in the following:
 Southern Illinois Association of Museums (SIAM)
 Illinois Association of Museums (IAM)
 American Association of State and Local History (AASLH)
 Illinois Historic Preservation
 Carmi Chamber of Commerce

MEMBERS OF THE 2015 BOARD:

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| President – Gene Jordan | Judy Cutchin |
| Vice President - Paula Pierson | Lecta Hortin |
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| Treasurer – Jeff Bohleber | Henry Lewis |
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| Marjorie Brown | Honorary Member – Kent F. P. Boeger |
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