
WHITE COUNTY HISTORIAN

Volume 21, Issue 4

October - December, 2015



"Preserving and
Promoting our History"

2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

SPRING DINNER MEETING
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

SECOND GRADE TEA PARTIES
ROBINSON-STEWART HOUSE

MAY

ROBINSON-STEWART HOUSE
PLANT SALE

SEPTEMBER

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

OCTOBER

CORN DAYS
CORN TASTING
RATCLIFF INN

MUSEUMS OPEN

NOVEMBER

FALL DINNER MEETING
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

WCHS RUMMAGE SALE
FARM BUREAU BUILDING

MUSEUMS OPEN DURING
WHITE COUNTY CHRISTMAS

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

As we bid farewell to 2015 and begin our 2016 journey, I want to thank all of you for your support in preserving our local history, and share with you a summary of what has transpired over the past three months with the White County Historical Society—and it has been a very busy final quarter to the year.

Three of our museums were open during Corn Days and the public turn out was one of the largest in recent memory with each museum hosting scores of visitors—both local and from afar. Our annual corn tasting at the Ratcliff Inn was a huge success earning over \$120 along with several new members joining the White County Historical Society.

Our Fall Dinner Meeting was a tribute to WWII veterans. More details and pictures follow later in the newsletter.

Mary McRoy orchestrated a “past/perfect” rummage sale on 20-21 November netting over \$1400 for the WCHS. We were overwhelmed by the level of community support—both in donating items for the sale and helping in the set up and subsequent break down.

We opened three of our museums (L. Haas Store, Ratcliff Inn, and the Robinson-Stewart House) in support of “White County Christmas” activities on 28 November. We also placed grave markers for James and Margaret Ratcliff in the “Old Graveyard.” The original markers had been damaged or disappeared years ago.

We had to replace the furnace in the Robinson-Stewart House in November because it had prematurely died due to incorrect installation eight years earlier (2007). Maintaining the museums is a time and cost consuming endeavor but necessary if we are to preserve the history of Carmi and White County.

Finally, we welcome a new member to the 2016 board--Valarie Berekashvili—and say thanks to a retiring long standing member and supporter of White County History—the Honorable Henry Lewis.

So, as we leave 2015 behind and look forward to the year ahead, I want to wish all of you a blessed and prosperous New Year and thank you again for your support to the WCHS.

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

From the Carmi Newspaper-Oct. 8, 1914

Sheriff Frazier Has Exciting Chase in Brush Runabout Thursday. Chase Proved a Farce

There was a great excitement Thursday in the Sheriff's office at the Courthouse, when a women dashed into the room and claimed that her horse and buggy had been stolen by one William Hughes and she asked for his immediate arrest and the return of her property. Sheriff Frazier buckled on his weapons, provided himself with the strongest pair of handcuffs in his possession and after locating which way the alleged horse thief had traveled, pressed into service a racing auto, a Brush, that was standing near the building, the property of Chauncey Conger.

A young employee of the Ford agency took the wheel of the racer and away sped the sheriff. The speed laws were ignored in the mad race for the evil doer and the officer of the law located his man in the Seals Chapel neighborhood and placed him under arrest. The sheriff said the only chance he saw to catch the man when he started out was for the horse the fellow was driving to drop dead. During the exciting chase the Sheriff's hat blew off. He got out and recovered it, the auto never slacking speed and the sheriff caught the car without any trouble.

The horse and rig driven by Hughes was a dandy and looked as if it had the ability to travel a mile in five hours, in fact regarding speed seemed to be on a level with the Sheriff's auto. The horse had fallen asleep in the road or in all probability the Sheriff would never had made the capture.

Hughes when arrested said the rig was his property. He was brought back to Carmi and confronted by his accuser, who claimed that she was his wife. Hughes denied the allegation and the Sheriff not wanting to get mixed in any family fight said if the pair wasn't married he would have to hold them under the Mann act. After throwing a scare into them the Sheriff directed them how to reach New Harmony and gave them orders to clear out at once. They cleared. As that was last Thursday they are probably at Crossville by now and may reach New Harmony by Sunday evening.

Sheriff Frazier has been trying to persuade Mr. Conger to take his Brush to Mt. Carmel and start in the auto races there next week. We have not learned whether the entry has been made. It is a safe bet that the next time the Sheriff desires to press an auto into service that he will be unable to get Mr. Conger's, after the "roasting" that followed his trip Thursday.

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.

FALL DINNER MEETING

by: Gene Jordan

We had about 120 people attend our Fall dinner and program wherein we paid tribute to several of our local WW II veterans. Nine veterans were presented with medals (the American Campaign and WWII Victory medals) they had earned but which most never received, and the audience was treated with a professionally produced video highlighting some stories and recollections of those veterans and their service during World War II. Despite the length of the program, feedback was all very positive. ✍



The American Campaign Medal and the World War II Victory Medal

Ralph Anselment, Harry Barbre, Kent Boeger, James Endicott, Sam Endicott, Gene Gowdy, Bill Harmon, Henry Lewis and Harold Stahl were each presented with these medals.



L-R: James Endicott, Sam Endicott, Ralph Anselment, Harold Stahl, Harry Barbre



Henry Lewis and Gene Jordan



Kent Boeger and Gene Jordan



Harry Barbre and Gene Jordan



Gene Gowdy and Gene Jordan



Bill Harmon and Gene Jordan

THE HONORABLE HENRY LEWIS RETIRING FROM BOARD

I cannot say enough about Henry in this brief newsletter in describing how much he has meant to the board for his long standing support to the WCHS. I am not aware of anyone in this county more respected or admired than Henry. His years of involvement in local government, various civic organizations, and his unwavering support to the White County Historical Society from its inception to now has made this small town in Southern Illinois a better place to live and work. Although he may have retired from the board, his counsel and advice will still be sought in the future.

Henry Lewis and wife, Pat, with a drawing of The First Presbyterian Church of Carmi presented to Henry at the 8 Dec 2015 WCHS board meeting and Christmas dinner



NEW BOARD MEMBER VALARIE BEREKASHVILI

Valarie has been an active supporter of WCHS activities over the years, including the “2nd grade tea parties” and “Pioneer Days” to name just a few. She is a welcomed addition to the board, bringing new perspectives and ideas along with a tenacious desire to give of her time and talents to preserve the rich history of this County.



The 2016 White County Historical Society Board. L-R: Judy Cutchin, Suellen Smith, Marge Brown, Cindy Conley, Ranelle Hubele, Mary McRoy, Lecta Hortin, Barbara Kearney, Valarie Berekashvili, Henry Lewis, Paula Pierson, David Brown, Gene Jordan, and Jeff Bohleber.

GRANDMA CLIMBS THE FAMILY TREE

Mary Ann Bax found this in her late mothers estate and I thought it very appropriate for our newsletter. Happy New Year to everyone.

submitted by: Suellen M. Smith, Mary Smith Fay Genealogy Building

There's been a change in Grandma, we've noticed as of late
She's always reading history, or jotting down some date.
She's tracing back the family, we'll have pedigrees,
Grandma's got a hobby, she CLIMBING FAMILY TREES...

Poor Grandpa does the cooking, and now, or so he states,
he even has to wash the cups and their dinner plates.
Well, Grandma can't be bothered, she's busy as a bee,
Compiling genealogy for the FAMILY TREE.

She has not time to baby-sit, the curtains are a fright.
No buttons left on Grandpa's shirt, the flower bed's a sight.
She's given up her club work, the serials on T. V.,
The only thing she does nowadays is CLIMB THE FAMILY TREE.

There were pioneers and patriots mixed with our kith and kin,
Who blazed the paths of wilderness and fought through thick and thin.
But none more staunch than Grandma, whose eyes light up with glee,
Each time she finds a missing branch for the FAMILY TREE.

To some it's just a hobby, to Grandma it's much more.
She learns the joys and heartaches of those who went before.
They loved, they lost, they laughed, they wept -- and now for you and me,
They live again in spirit around the FAMILY TREE.

At last she's nearly finished and we are each exposed.
Life will be the same again, this we all suppose.
Grandma will cook and sew, serve crullers with our tea.
We'll have her back, just as before that WRETCHED FAMILY TREE!!!

- author unknown



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 |
| Secretary – Ranelle Hubele | Barbara Kearney |
| Treasurer – Jeff Bohleber | Henry Lewis |
| David Brown | Mary McRoy |
| Marjorie Brown | Honorary Member – Kent F. P. Boeger |
| Cindy Birk Conley | Past President – Suellen Smith |